

**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:

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

Accused of AFRC/RUF Collaborator / *Exclusive* Page 3

Students Reach High Level for Second Moot Court... / *Independent Observer* Page 4

International News

Rebel Soldiers Absence Creates Increased Violence in Ivory Coast / *Voice of America* Pages 5-6

Liberia Takes Rubber Estate Back From Ex-Rebels / *Reuters* Pages 7-8

I will not betray Kony - Museveni / *African News Dimension* Pages 9-10

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 11-13

What Really Causes Civil War? / *New York Times* Pages 14-16

Exclusive

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Accused Of AFRC/ RUF Collaborator

After the reinstated government of Sierra Leone and the killing of his uncle Col. A.K. Sesay he travel to the Gambia in 1999 and stay there until the end of the year in hiding.

After the reprisal killing and mob justice ceased in the country, he returned back to Freetown with different identity. As a community worker, he was transferred to Kabala as Local Coordinator working for sometime in the province, and returned to

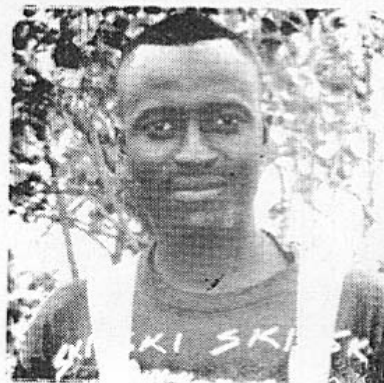
Freetown in 2001.

He faced stiff opposition and threatening remarks from unknown individuals calling him RUF/AFRC activist.

Because of this, he took vacation from work and traveled abroad.

After the vacation, he didn't return because he was wanted. His family house was inundated with people throwing stones.

His family who had lost their relatives during the regime wanted to see A.K.



Sesay stand trial, because of working with AFRC/RUF as a prominent figure under the influence of his uncle Col. A.K. Sesay who is late.

Independent Observer
Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Students reach high level for the second Moot Court competition

For the second edition of the Moot Court competition in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for students of Sierra Leone, the organiser, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, was glad to notice an increase of the level of the candidates. "I was impressed by the level of IHL knowledge of the students and their ability to argue the case, compared to the first edition", explained Philippe Stoll, Communication delegate of the ICRC. An imaginary humanitarian crisis between two countries (Borla and Rubica) was presented to five teams of three students drawn from Fourah Bay College, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, Njala University

and Eastern Polytechnic of Kenema. The teams had to answer questions related to IHL concerning events occurring during that crisis. Is it lawful to attack a power station or a dam? Is an army allowed to use nuclear weapons? Are artillery attacks respecting the principals of proportionality or of distinction?

After extensive arguments and vigorous submissions by students coupled with legally minded questions from the members of the jury, Abdul K. Koroma (Jr), Abdul Rahman Kamara, Nelson Sheku Fofanah, students from the Mass Communication of Fourah Bay College emerged as the winning team. Momoh Thomas Bokarie of Njala University (Freetown) received the award of the best speaker.

The winning team will follow a series of standard training

sessions to meet the high requirements of the Pan African stage of the competition in Arusha, Tanzania in November 2006. The winning team of last year and several Sierra Leonean IHL specialists will be involved in this training.

The competition was followed by a large public including relatives of the competitors, students, IHL specialists and members of the Fourth estate.

In collaboration with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, this Second Moot Court Competition was organised by the International Committee of Red Cross within the framework of its mandate to support the efforts of States in disseminating International Humanitarian Law.

Voice of America

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Rebel Soldiers Absence Creates Increased Violence in Ivory Coast

In Ivory Coast, rebel soldiers, who have patrolled the north of the divided country, are returning to their barracks, following a current roadmap for peace meant to lead to elections. But the demobilization has created a security vacuum, which is being filled by traditional security forces, including a group that believes it has supernatural powers.

In Korhogo, a town of about 150,000, many people stay in the noisy restaurants until late into the night.

But the relaxed atmosphere can be deceptive. International observers, local authorities and citizens all agree crime has shot up since rebel soldiers returned to their barracks about six weeks ago as part of a peace process calling for the demobilization of forces. Korhogo's deputy mayor Silué Sigata says twenty house break ins were reported in a week, compared to only the occasional report previously.

Zoumana Yeo, one of the rebels, says the absence of rebel soldiers from the streets is the reason for the increased violence.

"They were there for security," he said. "Since they left, there are no more soldiers to look after civilians at night."

Demobilization is the first step of a program, designed to disarm and reintegrate all those who took up arms in Ivory Coast's civil war, which began in 2002. The program applies to the rebel New Forces, who still occupy the north, as well as newly recruited government troops and militias, which fought alongside the government in the west.

In the north, the group that took on security duties is called the Dozos. It is a brotherhood of hand-picked members, who claim to have mystical powers.

It is midnight, and around 50 Dozos are gathered outside their leader's house in Korhogo.

The Dozos have been around for generations. They stopped policing the streets when the New Forces took control of the north four years ago. But when rebel commanders realized crime was becoming a problem again they asked the Dozos to resume their nightly patrols.

None of the Dozos wants to be named for fear of being associated with the rebels.

University of Illinois Professor Tom Bassett tells VOA the Dozos are not a cohesive group and are politically fragmented. Some are attracted to politics, he says, but others are not.

Carrying old muskets and wearing dreaded wigs and camouflage clothing, the Dozos do not want to be very visible.



Supporters of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo block a road as part of a protest Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Their leader says they chase down criminals, but are not violent.

He says, they do not shoot or hit anybody, just arrest people, and hand them over to the rebel authorities. Deputy mayor Sigata says the police does not have the resources to guard the streets itself.

The leader says the Dozos are a spiritual group, and members possess supernatural powers.

He says, the group does not accept just anyone. Members, he says, are selected according to their moral standing.

Professor Bassett says the Dozos are believed to have the power to protect themselves from the force of other animals, when they kill them. This is necessary,

he says, to protect them from death, poor health, or a bad crop, which is what happens to other people when they harm another creature.

The Dozos patrol the streets until dawn and then return to civilian life.

The Dozo leader says, during the day, they are like ordinary citizens, doing their jobs and dressing in civilian clothes. They keep watch only at night.

Ama Coulibaly, who runs a small night stall selling cigarettes and sweets in Korhogo, says he noticed the town is safer now that the Dozos are back.

He says, you could not walk around at night before, and robbers took everything. But since the Dozos have returned, the town is much safer.

Reuters

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Liberia Takes Rubber Estate Back From Ex-Rebels

By Alphonso Toweh

GUTHRIE RUBBER PLANTATION, Liberia, Liberia's government and armed U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday repossessed a rubber plantation from former rebel squatters in a move to restore economic assets wrecked by civil war.

U.N. and Liberian police supported by U.N. armoured vehicles kept back angry former rebel combatants as Agriculture Minister Chris Toe announced the government was re-establishing its control over the Guthrie rubber plantation.

Guthrie, about 50 km (30 miles) outside the capital Monrovia, and one other rubber estate have been occupied by former rebels who fought in the West African country's 14-year war, which ended in 2003.

"Today, we are taking a major step on Liberia's path towards recovery, development and respect for the rule of law," Toe said as he announced the government repossession of the plantation. Squatters, chanting "we won't leave", demanded the payment of demobilisation benefits that the government and its foreign backers have been giving to ex-combatants. Some scuffled with police but there was no serious violence.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who won elections last year, has vowed to revive the shattered economy of her once-prosperous country. She hopes to attract foreign investment to the rubber, timber, diamond, mining and shipping sectors.

Alan Doss, the U.N. Special Representative for Liberia, promised the international body would support plans to overhaul the Guthrie plantation, whose rubber trees have been decimated by indiscriminate illegal tapping of latex.

"Liberia has gone beyond violence. We will help to rehabilitate and rebuild this community. We have to do it now. We need to get new investment in this plantation," he said. An interim management team has been installed by the government to take over the running of the estate, where thousands of former rebels and their families have been living.

"THE PLANTATION IS DYING"

Some said they were not ready to leave.

"I'm not happy at all. I have nothing with me, not a cent. We're asking the government to give us 90 days. After that, we will leave. Where do they expect us to go?" said ex-fighter Andrew Sloper.

The squatters are former LURD (Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy) rebels who fought against former president and warlord Charles Taylor until a 2003 peace deal sent him into exile.

Taylor is in custody in The Hague awaiting trial for war crimes at a U.N.-backed special court. U.N. official Andrea Tamagnini, who sits on a joint government-U.N. task force created to overhaul Liberia's rubber sector, said it hoped to persuade the former rebels to leave Guthrie by offering incentives, training and chances of work.

"The objective is to convince everybody ... they are all afraid of the future," he told Reuters. "The plantation is dying, it's a forest. It hasn't been cleaned for years," Tamagnini said. "It has to be made viable," he added, saying the clearing of brush alone should create many work opportunities.

The joint task force has recommended measures to improve operations and working conditions on all of Liberia's major rubber plantations.

A human rights report issued in May by the U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said it believed that at Guthrie and another plantation occupied by former rebels children were being forced to work. The absence of the rule of law there had led to reports of murder, rape and assault, it added.

(Additional reporting by Pascal Fletcher in Dakar)

African News Dimension

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

I will not betray Kony - Museveni

By Grace Matsiko, Frank Nyakairu & Emmanuel Gyezaho

The leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony, and his other indicted commanders have received two fresh guarantees for their safety - one from Uganda's President Museveni and the other from the United Nations.

Museveni told the new Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), which is mediating an end to the 20-year insurgency in northern Uganda, that he will not betray the indicted rebel leader once a comprehensive peace agreement is signed.

He said once a deal is sealed, he would not turn around and hand Kony and four of his commanders indicted for war crimes to The Hague-based international criminal court (ICC) like the Nigerian authorities did to former Liberian leader Charles Taylor.

At the height of the decade-long civil war in Liberia, Taylor was forced out of government, with Nigeria offering him asylum only to succumb to US pressure and hand him over to the ICC for prosecution.

Daily Monitor established on Tuesday that the United Nations has also allayed earlier fears that Kony or his deputy Vincent Otti would be arrested once they set foot in the South Sudan capital of Juba for peace talks.

Speaking about the guarantees, the South Sudan, vice president and chief mediator Dr Riek Machar, told the government negotiators led by the internal affairs minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, at his office on Tuesday, that President Museveni had already communicated his commitment to the government of South Sudan.

"The president of Uganda has informed us that he will not do a Charles Taylor way on Kony (sic) and the other commanders," Dr Machar said.

Museveni's assurances are meant to dispel fears within the rebel ranks that the government would easily hand them over to the ICC once they denounce rebellion.

Taylor was arrested as he tried to flee Nigeria, but many believed the authorities there connived to have him captured so as to hand him over to the war crimes tribunal where he faces 17 counts of crimes against humanity.

Brokering peace talks

But the southern regional coordinator of Sudan's UN Mission (UNMIS), James Ellery, said on Monday that the UN has no plans to arrest Kony and his commanders, despite a deliberate attempt by the rebel leader and Otti to stay away from the Juba peace talks for fear of abduction.

"The UN is absolutely supportive of the ICC, however, there are no plans to make arrests in Sudan. Therefore that should not be used as an excuse for Kony and Otti not to show up," Ellery told the source.

Ellery, who praised the South Sudan initiative in brokering the peace talks, said: "The next stage has to be between the Ugandan leadership and LRA leadership. Kony and Otti better get themselves involved, otherwise they will become irrelevant."

On Tuesday, UNMIS had offered expert opinion on ceasefire talks but the session scheduled for 02:00 failed to take off because parties were not present at the talk's venue.

It also emerged on Tuesday that the government wants parliament to vet MPs keen on participating at the Juba peace talks.

This move follows the government's objection to a list of legislators and leaders from the northern region it regards as opposition elements, who have formally been invited by Dr Machar to participate at the Juba discussions as observers.

"Our position is that if the government of Uganda wants to have MPs on the talks, parliament should select those MPs and clear them to have them here," Captain Paddy Ankunda, the spokesperson for the government team, said.

Ankunda said this position was communicated to Dr Machar during the meeting the Kampala team held with him.

"We told him that these groups, which are coming, need to be authenticated and authorised by the government of Uganda," he said.

Last stage for talks

But Gulu chairperson, Norbert Mao, protested on Tuesday saying the government's objection to their presence at the talks was "simply misguided".

Mao said: "I want to speak to Dr Machar and get assurance over his invitation. These people [government] don't know what they are talking about. We just don't want to go and hang around the hotel. We want to go inside and listen to the proceedings of the talks."

Ankunda said Machar re-affirmed his desire to see a senior LRA commander present for the last stage of the talks so that decisions are taken faster and expeditiously.

The Kampala delegation, Ankunda said, was told by Machar that a ceasefire should not be a condition for the talks to resume between the government and the LRA.

"His Excellency Machar also told us that he agreed with us that we need a ceasefire monitoring mechanism in the event that the peace agreement is signed," Ankunda said.

He said Machar confirmed that he had received firm commitment from the LRA that they are ready to continue with the talks.

Monitor

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

BBC Last Updated: Tuesday, 15 August 2006, 11:35 GMT 12:35 UK

Liberia secures rubber plantation

Rubber is an important source of revenue for Liberia. The United Nations and the Liberian government are re-possessing one of the country's main rubber plantations on Tuesday, say UN officials in Liberia. The Guthrie plantation in north-western Liberia has been under the control of ex-rebels despite the end of the war. Rubber was an important export before civil war broke out in the late 1980s. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who assumed office in January this year, has pledged to establish the rule of law throughout the country. Correspondents say that since the end of the civil war in Liberia three years ago, the rubber plantations have remained lawless areas in which former Lurd rebels continued to tap trees for latex rubber to sell for profit.

International Clips on West Africa

There were no stories on West Africa in the major international media today.

Local Media – Newspaper

Government Takes Over Rubber Plantation Today

(The Analyst, New Democrat and The Inquirer)

- The Government of Liberia will today repossess the Guthrie Rubber Plantation being occupied by thousands of ex-combatants in Bomi County.
- Representatives of government and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss would attend the takeover ceremony.
- Mr. Doss had assured Liberians that UNMIL would prevent efforts by what it called "any groups of gangsters" to seize the economic assets, citing the Guthrie rubber plantation and other public plantations in the country that are occupied by former fighters.

Ex-Combatants Want Time to Vacate Rubber Plantation

(The Inquirer)

- The spokesman of the ex-combatants currently occupying the Guthrie Rubber Plantation, George Kamara requested the Government of Liberia to give former fighters 90 days to vacate the plantation.
- Mr. Kamara, Co-Chairman of the National Veteran Rehabilitation Program, an NGO set up by the ex-combatants at the plantation, told a news conference Sunday that even though they did not benefit from the Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RR) program, they were willing to leave after the grace period.
- The group's Chairman, Sumo Dennis added that they were not challenging government's call for them to leave the farm, but needed time to adequately convince their colleagues.

UN Official Wants Media to Lead Awareness for Development Goals

(The News, The Inquirer and Heritage)

- Speaking at a forum organized by the Press Union of Liberia in Monrovia yesterday, Mr. George Gould, UNDP's National Policy Analyst said that he feared that Liberia would not have made any significant progress when the UNDP releases its current report on achievement made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- However, Mr. Gould advised all and sundry including the media to play a key role in creating awareness to achieve the MDGs which seek to reduce poverty, hunger and provide health-care to the world by 2015.

Saudi Prince Pledge not Budgeted

(New Democrat)

- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio yesterday in Monrovia told a news conference that the Government of Liberia did not mention as part of its fiscal budget the US\$2 million pledged by a visiting Saudi Prince because the money was yet to be received.
- Mr. Badio noted that the pledge would be fulfilled only when proposals about its use have been prepared and presented to the donor. He refuted claims that the money has been disbursed and was deliberately omitted from the national budget.

House of Senate Passes Budget without Proposed Increases

(The News, The Analyst, Heritage, Daily Observer and The Inquirer)

- Briefing journalists after a session of the House of Senate, Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo said that the House rejected the US\$1.7 increment in the draft national budget for 2006/2007 on grounds that financial records of the Roberts International Airport, National Port Authority and Liberia Petroleum Refining Company which the House of Representatives projected would generate the US\$1.7 million, show that the entities were incapable of generating revenues to contribute to the budget.
- He said a decision to include these public corporations in future budgets could be taken at a mid-year review of the three corporations in December.
- The House of Representatives recently voted for the corporations to contribute US\$1.7 million more to the proposed national budget of US\$120 million.

Loyalists of Former Warring Faction Leader Poise to Attack Monrovia

(The Forum)

- About three residents of Benson, Carey and Johnson streets in Monrovia yesterday confided to *The Forum* that loyalists of a former warring faction leader were poised to attack Monrovia if the former leader is picked up for investigation in connection with the Executive Mansion fire incident.
- The residents disclosed that meetings were being held at night to execute the plan to turn Monrovia into what they termed "ghost town" if their former leader is arrested.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

House of Senate Passes Budget without Proposed Increases

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Government Takes Over Rubber Plantation Today

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Ex-Combatants Divided over Vacating Rubber Plantation

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNDP Official Urges Media to be Pro-Active

Sanction on Diamond to be Lifted Soon

- Meeting the visiting Belgium-based Grossman Diamond Manufacturing Company Executive, Agnon Grossman, Vice President Joseph Boakai said that the Government of Liberia expects that the sanction on Liberian diamonds would be lifted soon because key steps have been taken towards the Kimberline Certification Scheme required by the United Nations to lift the sanction on Liberian diamonds.
- He said if the ban is lifted and an organized system is put in place, the diamond sector would provide jobs for Liberians. Mr. Grossman disclosed plans that his Company would develop a diamond industry in Liberia.

Government Set to Demolish Unauthorized Structures in Monrovia

- Acting Public Works Minister Luisene Donzo told Radio Veritas in Monrovia yesterday that a major demolition of unauthorized structures was underway in enforcing the zoning code. He said that the demolition exercise would begin with structures built in alleys in various communities and streets of Monrovia.
- Minister Donzo disclosed that the government would constitute a zonal task force comprising of the Ministries of Lands, Mines and Energy, Justice, Public Works and other relevant agencies to ensure that the zoning code is followed.

New York Times
Monday, 14 August 2006

What Really Causes Civil War?



Brent Stirton/Getty Images

Sierra Leone, 2003: Patrolling the border with Liberia, trying to ward off rebel attacks.

The commonplace assumption that a more homogeneous society is a more peaceful society certainly sounds reasonable. Surely monoethnic Japan should have an easier time maintaining domestic order than Indonesia; or Slovenia than Macedonia. After all, in a country with numerous ethnic or religious groups, politicians are easily tempted to organize factions along group lines — which can lead to rising tensions and even civil war or the collapse of the state. In 1938, Benito Mussolini warned, “If Czechoslovakia finds herself today in what might be called a ‘delicate situation,’ it is because she was not just Czechoslovakia, but Czech-Germano-Polono-Magyarorutheno-Rumano-Slovakia.”

Today, as Iraq spirals toward outright warfare between Sunnis and Shiites, it risks joining a lengthening list of countries that have seemingly inevitably been ripped apart by bitter sectarian hatreds: Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sudan and not least Lebanon, which experienced civil wars in 1860 and 1958 and from 1975 to 1990 and may face yet another one.

But what if this whole premise is wrong? Odd as it may seem, there is a growing body of work that suggests that multiethnic countries are actually no more prone to civil war than other countries. In a sweeping 2003 study, the Stanford civil war experts James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin came to a startling finding: “it appears not to be true that a greater degree of ethnic or religious diversity — or indeed any particular cultural demography — by itself makes a country more prone to civil war.”

Fearon and Laitin looked at 127 civil wars from 1945 to 1999, most often in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. They found that regardless of how ethnically mixed a country is, the likelihood of a civil war decreases as countries get richer. The richest states are almost impervious to civil strife, no matter how multiethnic they might be — think for instance of Belgium, where Flemings and Walloons show almost no inclination to fight it out. And while the poorest countries have the most civil wars, Fearon and Laitin discovered that, oddly enough, it is actually the more homogeneous ones among them that are most likely to descend into violence.

Fearon and Laitin explained their findings by noting that while the world is awash with political grudges, ethnic and otherwise, civil wars only begin under particular circumstances that favor rebel insurgencies. The most common situation involves a weak, corrupt or brutal government confronting small bands of rebels protected by mountainous terrain and sheltered by a sympathetic rural population, and possibly bolstered with foreign support or revenues from diamonds or coca. These insurgents may be ethnic chauvinists, but they could equally well be anti-colonialists, Islamists, drug lords, greedy opportunists, communists of various stripes and so on.

The Fearon and Laitin argument has not gone unchallenged. In a 2004 paper, the Oxford economists Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler noted that when an ethnic group makes up more than 45 percent but less than 90 percent of a population, strife becomes more likely. Such a group, they reasoned, will be especially tempted to exploit smaller groups.

Other scholars have backed up Fearon and Laitin's general argument. Crawford Young, an African politics expert at Wisconsin and a former dean at the National University of Zaire, maintains that the new pattern of conflict in Africa, where many of the post-1989 civil wars have broken out, has "nothing to do with religion, ethnicity and race." In contrast to the conventional view that violence in Africa is a product of the legacy of arbitrary colonial borders that bundled rival tribes together, Young blames recent African civil wars largely on novel financial and military factors. He points to the illicit sale of arms from the former Soviet Union and the rising professionalism of foreign-trained guerrillas (including jihadis who fought the Soviets in Afghanistan) as well as the use of child soldiers in Uganda and Congo.

Young emphasizes that rebels do not need much popular support if they can manage to finance themselves: trading in illicit diamonds helped bankroll and sustain Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, not to mention rebels in Sierra Leone and Angola. This argument also helps explain why Colombia's civil war, fuelled by coca profiteering, has dragged on for so many decades. Far from needing ethnic grievances to perpetuate them, some civil wars can perpetuate themselves.

If true, the notion that ethnic diversity does not make civil war more likely would be reassuring news for citizens of multiethnic countries like the United States and India. It would also call into question the thinking of pundits like Robert D. Kaplan, who has written that that multiethnic Nigeria “is likely to split into several pieces,” and Samuel P. Huntington, whose book “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order” previews a world torn apart by cultural differences between Muslims and other civilizations — ethnic warfare on a global scale. The Fearon-Laitin thesis suggests that the debate over the future of fragile countries should turn from questions of ethnic demography to the need for good government, economic development and adequate policing. It also implies that there was nothing inevitable about the terrible sectarian strife in Iraq. Ethnic wars do not just happen; they are made.

Gary J. Bass, an associate professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton, is writing a book about humanitarian intervention.