

**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 of:**

Thursday, 16 February 2006

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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# Demby sparks controversy at Special Court

Story:  
Tanu  
Jalloh

Testimony of former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby, third to testify after Hinga Norman and former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Alfred Penfold in the ongoing Civil

Defence Forces (CDF) trial, Wednesday sparked controversy at the Special Court.

The controversy ensued during cross-examinations by prosecuting counsel, Kevin

Taverner when he submitted that there is a variance in the testimony that was being given by the witness to that of the original summary of his testimony tendered by the defense counsel for the first accused.

Under cross-examination Dr. Demby had testified thus: "I don't know what Hinga Norman was doing as National Coordinator for CDF at the Liberia/Sierra Leone border." This was in response to Prosecution's question of whether he (Demby) knew of the role played by Norman while he stayed with the Kamajors at the said border.

"Summary of your testimony

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## Demby sparks controversy at Special Court

*From page 1*

states that Norman was appointed National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Forces as the last security mechanism left behind after the coup of 1997 had been staged. Is what you are now saying a recent fabrication?" the prosecutor asked.

Responding to the contention raised by the Prosecuting counsel, lead defense counsel for the first accused, Dr. Bubuaque Jabbie, argued that there has been no inconsistency in what the witness has said in relation to what is contained in the summary of testimony he (prosecutor) is

referring to.

"My Lords, I see no inconsistency in what the witness has just said to what is in the summary of his testimony. What he said was that he did not know the terms and reference of his appointment as National Coordinator for CDF.

Arguments, either to reconcile statements made in the summary of his testimony and the what he was now saying or establish the variances identified by the prosecutor for the defense counsel, continue Thursday at 9:00 am at the Special Court Trial Chamber

# "I'm still loyal to Kamajor movement"

## ...Demby

By Joseph Turay

Testifying yesterday in the ongoing CDF trials at the Special Court for

Sierra Leone, former Vice President Dr Albert Joe Edward Demby made it categorically clear that he was

still very loyal and committed to the pro-government militia kamajor movement that fought against the much dreaded RUF rebels.

Demby who was being cross examined by the prosecution, testified that he believed in the ideals of the kamajor movement because they

protected his people, describing the militia group as local hunters who sought to defend their various chiefdoms.

Vice President Demby told the court that even though he did not go through the initiation (immunization) process of the movement, young boys and

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## "I'm still loyal to Kamajor"

from front page

girls between the ages of 7 and 9 voluntarily joined the group of traditional hunters called 'kama jaysia'.

Demby revealed that the group later became a defence force after they had been requested by the then NPRC military regime to fight in defence of the State.

Demby told the court that these traditional hunters had been fighting under the general command of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces, adding that the movement paid total loyalty

and allegiance to their chiefs.

The former Vice President in the first phase of the ruling SLPP narrated that it was this same movement which later transformed and joined the Civil Defence Force (CDF).

He recalled prior to the coup in 1997 when the soldiers complained to him alleging that his government had not been paying much attention to the Army, but rather giving more resources to the kamajors. "These allegations were unfounded" Demby told the prosecutor.

# ***Revealed: Kamajors were immunized against bullets***

*By Betty Milton*

**D**uring cross examination by the Prosecutor, former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby yesterday informed the court that the Kamajors were immunized against bullets.

Dr. Demby said he first

heard about this immunization in 1996 and the initiators used mystic medicinal herbs, which made them bullet-proofed. He however stressed that he was not immunized and did not test any of the initiates but believed that mystic medicinal herbs could do things which science could

not do.

The former Vice President stressed that initiators had no power over the initiates as they came voluntarily and that they had no power to control how, where and when to fight.

Earlier in his evidence, the former Vice President stated that around 1996 and 1997

*Contd. Page 2*

## **Kamajors were immunized against bullets**

*From Front Page*

when some people developed mystic medicinal herbs, which were used to immunize people against bullets wounds. The initiators were herbalists who sat in their homes or places of practice and people go there for initiators. People that were not even associated with the fighting, he said, went there for initiations.

Revealing, Dr Demby further maintained that Paramount Chiefs and sub-chiefs in most Chiefdoms invited these initiators to their Chiefdoms to immunize the already formed Chiefdom Kamajors and paid for those who did not have the means.

In some Chiefdoms, he noted, the Paramount Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs asked people who came from that Chiefdom to

assist with resources for the initiators of the Kamajors. While he was in Kenema, the Paramount Chief of Baoma Chiefdom after a meeting sent a senior Section Chief A.B Tomboyekeh to request from them funds for the initiation of their already formed Kamajor movement. He personally contributed the sum of Le1.5 million, as he believed the Kamajors were doing good job.

Karim Set: SLAJ Scribe

# Joe Demby reveals more secrets

By Tom E. Tommy &  
Saffia S. Kabbah

Former Vice president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Joe Demby continued his testimony yesterday at the

Special Court for Sierra Leone after a day's break which was so scheduled to allow the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Frederick Carew to argue

against a subpoena warranting the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to testify in the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and two other

top former CDF operatives. In his testimony, the former Vice President spoke about the roles played by Chief Sam Hinga Norman in his capacity as National Co-ordinator of

the Civil Defence Force (CDF), and the late General Maxwell Khobe during the course of the war. Dr. Demby explained that it was while he

*Contd: page 2*

## Joe Demby reveals more secrets

*From front page*

was at Lungi that he first heard that Chief Norman was between the Sierra Leone and Guinea border, and that he has been appointed National Co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Force.

He also made it clear that the said appointment was made by President Kabbah himself whilst in exile in neighbouring Guinea.

According to Dr. Demby, he was not too au fait with the activities of Chief Norman since he was only hearing about his moves and not being in a position at the time to meet him face to face.

As for the late Major General Maxwell Khobe, Dr. Demby revealed that on May 25, 1997 the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah called and told him that there was firing going on around the vicinity of State House.

On hearing the news, Dr. Demby explained that his security guards swiftly moved him along side his family out of Freetown to Lungi, where he spent a while and even ran out of cash.

According to him, it was while he was at Lungi that the late General Maxwell Khobe approached him and informed him that President Kabbah had instructed that they both stay at Lungi to co-ordinate events from that point. General Khobe, Dr. Demby said was in charge of the Nigerian contingent and in control of both logistics and ammunition, adding that he was at one time informed by General Khobe that the logistical support were coming directly from President Kabbah who was in exile by then.

According to Dr. Demby, President Kabbah only visited them once while they were at Lungi and that even that

visit was to attend a scheduled meeting that was geared towards mapping out strategies for ECOMOG to intervene.

Dr. Demby also stated that the said meeting was also attended by Chief Norman.

Days after that meeting, Dr. Demby revealed that ECOMOG forces led by Gen. Maxwell Khobe launched a military intervention in Freetown and succeeded in flushing out the junta elements from power.

On whether ECOMOG did the military intervention in concert with Kamajor fighters, Dr. Demby said he didn't know, but remarked however that he was told that they fought alongside the CDF to restore the democratically elected Government.

Dr. Demby went on to testify that after President Kabbah returned back from exile, he graciously appointed Gen. Maxwell Khobe as Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

On what he knew about the CDF movement, he explained that he first heard of such a group in November 1999 following the signing of the Abidjan Peace Accord.

Initially, Dr. Demby said, they were largely known as traditional hunters but that after President Kabbah requested that hunters too should help the ECOMOG forces in flushing the rebels, mass recruitments were recorded throughout the southern and eastern parts of the country.

He made it clear that the main thrust of the Kamajor movement was to assist ECOMOG in its bid to restore President Kabbah to power.

## **Vision Comment**

### **Why Kabbah Should Testify**

The issue that calls for President Ahmed Tejan to testify at the Special Court, has been hitting the headlines of the press. This issue should not be swept under the carpet especially as the SLPP party is bracing up for the 2007 general elections. In fact, this issue could be a center point for debate, as Norman's case is also an SLPP affair.

Noting that the various Kamajor bosses have testified at the Special Court, it will be equally important for Kabbah to also testify at the Special Court, as he was the overall boss of the Kamajors.

At the Special Court itself, Hinga Norman and others were smart to point out that none of them were responsible for giving orders to the Kamajors. Then arise the question of who was actually the commanding officer of the Kamajors?

Even though Peter Penfold enjoys diplomatic immunity, he found it necessary and appropriate to testify at the Special Court. Does that mean he has no skeleton in his cupboard?

It is based on this conclusion, that the New Vision would also like our President to testify if he has no skeleton in his cupboard.

Secondly, it will be very important to let the public know his own opinion about what Penfold confessed at the Special Court.

According to Mr. Penfold, Norman should be hailed and not punished for whatever crimes he may have committed. Is this true Mr. President?

Most SLPP stalwarts who witnessed Peter Penfold's testimony are now in dilemma as to why an SLPP hero should be crucified by his own kinsmen.

His mere appearance at the Special Court could put many speculations to rest.

What has equally bothered most of Norman's followers, is the fact that a former British High Commissioner, should travel all the way from Britain only to vindicate their boss, who is currently under victimization from a government he had loyally served.

As far as Sierra Leoneans are concerned, the Attorney General has no characteristic bearing to Kabbah.

So why should Fred Carew testify on his behalf. Many merely view him as an errand boy for Kabbah and Berewa.

The underlying pertinent question also raised is whether Kabbah's testimony will exonerate Norman or still implicate him.

Further more, political observers will also like to actually prove whether Kabbah masterminded Norman's plight.

**VIL W PUNI** *By John Momo Kaizolo*

## Kabbah's Special Court Dilemma

**The Special Court has an important role to play in the Sierra Leone political context. By all indications the mandate of the court is to serve as a bulwark against impunity. That is to emphasize that nobody is above the law and to stress the equal treatment of everyone before the law.**

What then will be the connotations if ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor or President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah categorically refuses to testify at the Special Court? To many people, it will mean that the bitter agonies of the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone has come and gone. The events have passed into history and oblivion, but the meaning of either Taylor or Kabbah attending the court has a negative connotation that stands to undermine the mandate and credibility of the UN-backed Special Court.

This is why on the grounds of principle, it will be logical for President Kabbah to be present at the Special Court—just as his friend Peter Penfold took time off his busy schedule to testify before the court—at least to be a shining example and a pace-setter of justice in this country. After all, everyone knows that President Kabbah has nothing up his sleeves to hide. It will only be a matter of fulfilling fully the formalities, as he himself is a lawyer and economist by profession.

But in the case of Charles Taylor, everyone conceded to his guilt. The point is that, if ex-President Charles Taylor is to appear before the Special Court, it will only be through a miracle that he will be able to free himself. Everyone knows that Taylor is guilty and Kabbah is innocent. Taylor, as a friend of the press especially the BBC granted several press interviews in those difficult times of the war attesting that “he will never give a guarantee that he will not attack Sierra Leone.

Taylor did not hide his motives for launching the invasion into Sierra Leone. The ex-President of the dissolved National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) on several occasions expressed his anger and dislike over the intervention of the West African Peace Keeping Force (ECOMOG) into the Liberian crisis at a time he was about to consolidate his total control not

only all over Liberia but in Monrovia, as well. At the time some elements of the Armed Forces of Liberia that were loyal to his adversary Samuel k. Doe were still holding out around the vicinity of the Executive Mansion, the Liberian State House with President Doe.

The assembling of ECOMOG forces in Freetown, that later sailed to Monrovia, was interpreted by Taylor as an act of aggression and a sabotage of his entire military pursuit that has caused him so much. Sierra Leone was thus considered by Taylor as an “enemy” that had reversed his fortune and ambition to become President of Liberia by conquest.

But little did Taylor realize that sending his troops to invade Sierra Leone was a flagrant violation of international law. Evidence abound showing that Sam Bockarie alias “Maskita” the notorious RUF rebel Commander was an emissary of Charles Taylor, and also there are evidences to prove that Taylor ordered him and other RUF top-brass to release the Pakistani troops that were held hostage in the Kailahun district.

It is in this perspective of the stance against impunity that the defense counsel in the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman has issued a subpoena to have President Kabbah testify at the Special Court in the interest of fair trial.

Responding to the call of Justice Benjamin Itoe, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Mr. Frederick M. Carew retorted. “I will advise President Kabbah to come to the Special Court.

Essentially the National Constitution granted sweeping powers to the President of the Republic, who is also the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. Even the judges of the highest court of the land are appointed by the President but the saying goes that nobody is above the law—even the President ought to show very high regards to the due process of the law.



**MY PEN**  
With David A Jabati Jnr



*There was eerie silence in the Capitol, when William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, was in the 'Ides of March,' stabbed by no less a person than his close compatriot, Brutus. From a love-hug to a hate-stab. His white kingly garment turned red as blood oozed out of him. 'E-tu Brute?' (And you too Brutus ?), Caesar unbelievably asked as he succumbed to the cruel, cold and deadly dagger of the man who until his demise, he perceived as his best friend in the whole of Athens.*

A similar scenario appears to be prevailing in Sierra Leone, between His Excellency the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and his former subordinate, the Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Something many Sierra Leoneans view as a betrayal. The whole idea of establishing a United Nations backed Special Court in Sierra Leone was according to reports, entertained by President Kabbah. In other words, we can safely say that it was the government of Sierra Leone that endorsed the protocols that led to the setting up of a Special Court in this country. As a matter of fact, he (Kabbah), I personally believe appended his signature to the document between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone, that gave birth to the setting up of a Superior Court with a mandate to try and punish, "all those who bare the greatest responsibility for war crimes and other serious breaches of international humanitarian laws in the course of the decade long conflict in Sierra Leone."

Initially, many Sierra Leoneans raised eye brows at the whole idea of establishing a Special Court. Many argued that there was no need for the establishment of such a legal outfit when we are now talking about reconciliation. Others also argued that the money involved in the whole Special Court project should be diverted to other areas that will benefit every Sierra Leonean. Although all of these arguments were brilliant, yet pundits argued that there was indeed the need to have such an institution in place so that big-fish-war-criminals could be punished and justice seen to be done to the letter as a way of ending the cycle of impunity in the country.

## And Norman said: "E-tu Kabbah?" (And you too Kabbah?)

The Special Court was however set up and many Sierra Leoneans started guessing who and who would possibly be indicted by this almighty court. Well, as I stated in one of my articles - "Should the Special Court become a farce...", the Special Court indicts people on two primary bases. 1. Individual Criminal responsibility and 2. Command Structure/Responsibility. Sam Hinga Norman unfortunately fell under the Command Structure indictees, which was true. He was the National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Force (CDF) and he had (or was supposed to have) command and control over the five civil militia groups then operating in the country. These include, the Kamajors, Tamaboros, Gbethis Kaprass and Donsos. Norman was arrested in his office while he was still in active service as Deputy Defense Minister and head of the CDF.

Among all those indicted, Norman's was fiercely criticised and seriously questioned by many Sierra Leoneans particularly the Kamajors and his tribesmen who saw him as a hero instead a villain. It was in fact widely rumored that the indictment of Norman was masterminded by the president although this could not be ascertained. Some thought Norman's former immediate boss, President Kabbah influenced his indictment, more so when the former was operating directly under the orders of the latter. Norman himself saw this as a betrayal on the part of his former boss, President Kabbah. And like Julius Caesar asked Brutus, Norman must have asked himself Brutus' two-short-word question to Caesar but in this case, "E-tu Kabbah" (And you too Kabbah?), in disbelief that this was going to be the reward for his service not just to Kabbah and the restoration of his government, but even to the people of Sierra Leone.

Now by all indications, Chief Norman is hell bent on revenging on the president. His testimony at the Special Court has revealed that he did many, if not all what he did under the instructions of the president. And if he finds himself facing charges of war crimes for the role he played in defending democracy during the war, it was because he was appointed by president

Kabbah as National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Force of which, according to him, Kabbah was Chairman of the War Council. Isn't that implicating?

In Norman's effort to revenge on his former boss, and to rope him into this awesome Court, his lawyers now demand that the Special Court subpoena Kabbah who according to the testimonies made by Norman, Peter Penfold (The former British Ambassador to Sierra Leone) and Albert Joe Demby (The former Vice President to Kabbah) revealed that he (Kabbah) played a very significant role in supporting the CDF. The rationale behind Kabbah taking the witness box is to also assist the Special Court in clarifying certain issues in the course of the proceedings. However, this demand was hastily condemned by the Attorney General (AG) and Minister of Justice Frederick Carew, on the bases that Kabbah, as the embodiment of national cohesion, should not face the Special Court. The AG's argument was based on Section 46 (4) of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone which states among others that, "... while any person holds or performs the function of the office of the President, no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against him in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him either in official or private capacity". Well the AG was invited at the Special Court to defend the president on the issue of whether or not the latter should take the witness box. The AG I strongly believe, must have spent some reasonable time reading the constitution of Sierra Leone particularly areas that are of relevance to his argument. He must have adequately prepared himself to meet other tough legal luminaries like Lawyer Bu-buakei Jabbie one of Sierra Leone's finest Constitutional Lawyer who is also well prepared to robustly argue the case of the accused.

It is however reported that after serious legal tussle between the two parties, the AG had no alternative but to bend down low: "I will advise the president to testify" he was quoted as having said.

By all indications, we must say that the President will at any time from now, take the witness box. What will be the outcome of his testimony is still the million dollar question now on the lips of the people.

# At Special Court

# British General To Testify

He said that in order to avoid wasting precious time, General Richards will testify before Mr. Collier who is another anticipated witness for testimony at the Special Court.

In a related development, Vice President Albert Joe Demby also disclosed that whilst he was in Lungi, he received information that President Kabbah had sent Chief Sam Hinga Norman to the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia to organize kamajors for the purpose of putting up stiff resistance against the rebel out fit and members of the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC).

Demby said after some weeks, he was told that Chief Norman had been transferred to 'Base Zero'

in Talia Bonthe together with some kamajors.

*Contd. page 2*

**By Mohamed Kai**  
Counsel for the first CDF indictee, Dr. Bu-buakie Jabbe has informed the

court that a general of the British Army called Richards will be available to court for testi-

mony on 21 February 2006. Dr. Jabbe told the court that General Richards should have commenced

his testimony this week but has been posted to Afghanistan on official assignment. He assured

the court that the British General will definitely avail himself to court next week.

## British General To Testify

*From front page*

The Special Court witness boasted that he will always remain loyal to the kamajor movement. "I have my gun and licenses," he said. He further disclosed that it was after the May 25 coup in 1997, that President Kabbah appointed Maxwell Khobe as Chief of Defence Staff of the Sierra Leone Army now Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, ( RSLAF ).

He concluded that following the coup, his body guard drove him out of Freetown to a secluded hide-out at Kossoh Town and he was there together with his family for two months before he was finally flown to Lungi on board a military helicopter. The trial continues today.

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_section](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_section)

### **KABBAH ALMOST CERTAIN TO APPEAR BEFORE SIERRA LEONE SPECIAL COURT**

Thursday February 16, 2006

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah may have to appear before the Special Court unless a last minute legal miracle happens. The Sierra Leone Attorney General and Justice Minister, Mr. Frederick Carew failed yesterday to show the court cause why President Kabbah should not respond to a subpoena issued by attorneys for War Crimes indictee and former Coordinator of the controversial Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Hinga Norman. The Attorney General tamely promised that he will advise President Kabbah to appear before the court.

Following a no-nonsense undertaking last Friday by the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber 1, Justice Pierre Boutet, that that day's postponement of hearing into the subpoena will be the last, the Attorney General at last appeared before the Special Court yesterday to argue his case on behalf of his boss, President Kabbah, after many requests for postponements.

Frederick Carew's monumental task now is to advance strong and convincing legal arguments to convince the court that it was legally impermissible for a sitting President to appear before an international court.

If Kabbah appears before the Special Court, it will not only be a legal landmark, given the immunities enjoyed by sitting Presidents in Sierra Leone against appearance in courts of law, but it will provide the most earthshaking fireworks since the Special Court started sitting. For once, President Kabbah may come face-to-face with the man who was once a warrior on his behalf but with whom he is now engaged in bitter misunderstanding.

Chief Norman, during his testimony, did not fail to impress it on the court that Kabbah was privy to decisions he took on behalf of the CDF as his boss. And Norman would hardly wait for his dream opportunity to grill Kabbah for once in such a public and international forum and put it to his boss that whatever decisions he took as Coordinator of the CDF had the consent of the President, even though legal minds are arguing that Hinga Norman's defensive strategy to blame Kabbah for the decisions he took would not excuse him from culpability for the serious charges levied against him by prosecution witnesses. Though in the Criminal Law, an accused can use the command structure of an organization to explain the rationale for his acts, the law does also recognize individual responsibility for the planning and commission of a crime.

But it must be drummed home that as always, an accused is innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. by clear and convincing evidence in a competent court of law. As at now, Norman is innocent and the Special Court it is who has the burden to

prove that the allegations against him were true. It is the same with Kabbah. Even if it appears to the layman that he had been implicated by Norman, he is still innocent in the eyes of the law and has nothing to prove, the burden of proof being on the prosecution, if it comes to that, to show that what Norman said was true and sufficient to have Kabbah himself indicted by the court when he retires. The testimonies of all the witnesses against Norman and Norman's statements against Kabbah are for now only allegations. It is very important to emphasize these points, since laymen have already taken sides in this stormy issue between Norman and Kabbah. The burden is not on any of these men to prove that what has been said against them was false.

In the Criminal Law, the only time the burden of proof shifts from the prosecution is if an accused pleads insanity for his crime, in which case he has the burden to prove that he was insane when he committed the alleged acts.

Hinga Norman's faithful Spokesman, Rev. Alfred SamForay, has however not missed the opportunity to continue poking fun at the President and his Attorney General.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 Feb 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Sirleaf's government similar to ex-regimes: Liberia's parliament chief**

MONROVIA, Feb 15, 2006 (AFP) - The speaker of Liberia's newly elected parliament charged Wednesday that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had formed a government resurrecting the political discrimination of past regimes. "What we have been seeing in the past is still taking place today," speaker Edwin Snowe, who won his position with support from the opposition at the expense of Sirleaf's Unity Party, said in a state radio broadcast.

"People who have been serving the past regimes have been sidelined by the new regime," alleged Snowe, a close associate of Liberia's former warlord turned president Charles Taylor.

**Liberia's former exiles dominate first post-war government**

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Feb 15, 2006 (AFP) - Liberian politicians who fled into exile as a bitter war raged in the west African country are set to dominate the country's first post-war cabinet, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's appointments have shown. Liberia's cabinet is made up of 23 ministries for 19 of which the head of state nominates candidates, who are subject to approval by an opposition-dominated parliament.

Of the 19 ministers Sirleaf has already named, only six lived in **Liberia** before last year's watershed elections that ushered in her new government.

**Liberia: Sirleaf starts to form government, some appointments spark protest**

MONROVIA, 14 Feb 2006 (IRIN) - Liberia's peace-time government is taking shape, with most cabinet posts and top slots filled, but some of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's first acts as president have sparked protest, not least her looking outside the country for a new army chief.

On Saturday, at a commemoration of Armed Forces Day, Sirleaf announced the appointment of Nigerian Luka Yusuf, a former commander of the UN mission in Liberia, to head the restructuring and formation of the country's army, stirring ire among some military officials.

And Sirleaf's choice for a handful of top posts, including former elections commission chief Frances Johnson-Morris as justice minister, has drawn condemnation from Sirleaf's rival in last year's presidential run-off, George Weah.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Côte d'Ivoire: Top UN official meets with authorities after anti-UN violence**

ABIDJAN, 15 Feb 2006 (IRIN) - The UN's top humanitarian official Jan Egeland is in war-torn Cote d'Ivoire seeking assurances from authorities that January's anti-UN violence will not be repeated and that ringleaders of the attacks will be punished.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Senate Rejects Public Works Minister-Designate**

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

- In an executive session yesterday, the House of Senate rejected the nomination of Public Works Minister-designate Willis Knuckles. However, Sinoe County Senator Joseph Nagbe announced a motion for reconsideration of the Senate's decision.

### **UNMIL Launches Nationwide Anti-Rape Campaign**

*(Daily Observer, Heritage, New Vision and The Informer)*

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss over the weekend launched UNMIL's nationwide anti-rape campaign in Monrovia, an UNMIL press release said. The campaign aims at raising public awareness about rape and encouraging victims to seek redress.

### **Cabinet Nominee Vows to Audit Non-Governmental Organizations**

*(New Democrat)*

- Appearing for confirmation hearing recently, Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Togar Gayeweah McIntosh vowed to conduct an assessment into the operations of international and local non governmental organizations to determine their level of impact on the citizenry. He said that claims by the NGOs of having spent millions of dollars in Liberia could not easily be confirmed.

### **UN Envoy Praises China's Peacekeeping Role**

*(The Analyst)*

- In a meeting in Monrovia recently with a delegation from China's Military, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss, praised China's contribution to the success of UNMIL. He urged China to continue its support to the peacekeeping mission while Liberia strengthens its democracy.

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

### **Senate Rejects Public Works Minister-Designate**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Former Oil Refinery Managing Director Denies Wrongdoing**

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, former Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC) Managing Director Edwin Snowe said that he acted legally when he ordered the payment of more than US\$500,000 to an engineering entity - the Mechanical Engineering Group, which the Corporation contracted with the consent of the Contracts and Monopolies Commission. Mr. Snowe clarified that he had ordered the payment before he was sworn in as a Lawmaker and that upon taking the Oath of Office he renounced his managerial position at the LPRC.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Government Prepares for National Census**

- Speaking at the opening of a workshop on statistics and demography organized by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, the Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services Acting Director-General Edward Liberty urged Liberian demographers to prepare themselves for future national census.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

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

### **House Defence Committee Discusses the Appointment of a Nigerian over the AFL**

- The House of Representatives yesterday ordered its committee on national defence and security to examine President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's appointment of a Nigerian military officer General Luka N. Yusuf to command the Armed Forces of Liberia, adding that it wanted to know the legal implications of the President's move.

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

### **Press Union President Decribes Cabinet Appointment as Boost to Media**

- Press Union of Liberia (PUL) President Elizabeth Hoff said yesterday that she saw her nomination as Deputy Information Minister for Technical Services as a boost to the media. She added that she was relinquishing her position as president of the PUL to move the media and the country the forward.

*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](mailto:armahj@un.org).*



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## National Security Vs Dollar Diplomacy

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

ANALYSIS

February 15, 2006

Posted to the web February 15, 2006

The Liberian peace formula as brokered by the International Crisis Group on Liberia (ICGL) in collaboration with friendly Western governments and regional groupings was definitive in both interest and goal. It called for ceasefire, disarmament and demobilization, restructuring of the security forces, elections, and national reconstruction - reconstruction encompassing infrastructural development and social harmony. For reasons of avoiding intransigence amongst the then belligerent groups, the conference did not consider the extradition of former President Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone to face the Special Court as a crucial factor to the restoration of peace either to Liberia or the ECOWAS subregion.

Today, however, the US, EU, and other western authorities including the donor community are seemingly making the Taylor factor precondition for fulfilling their commitments to the reconstruction of Liberia. Human rights organizations are blowing their trumpets; so are power wielders in Washington, at the UN Headquarters in New York, and in Freetown. But some officials of the Liberian government think the issue is beyond Liberia as well as it is preposterous and volatile in security terms.

The question now is, "Whose responsibility is Taylor's extradition?" The Analyst's Staff Writer looks at the competing interests and disturbing positioning.

"Unfortunately, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has resisted numerous calls, including by the United States Congress, to transfer Mr. Taylor to the custody of the Special Court.

"However, President Obasanjo has committed to consider an extradition request made by a democratically-elected Liberian government. That is why we are asking you to request that President-Elect Johnson-Sirleaf now call for the Nigerian government to deliver Mr. Taylor to the Special Court.

"Last month, we were encouraged to see the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopt a resolution, cosponsored by the United States, mandating that the U.N. peacekeeping force in Liberia arrest and transfer Mr. Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to stand trial if he were to return to Liberia.

"This resolution -- which emphasized that Taylor's stay in Nigeria is temporary and recognized him as a threat to the region -- is further indication of the international community's strong desire to see Mr. Taylor face the Special Court.

"Additionally, the European Union, days after President-Elect Johnson-Sirleaf's election, issued a statement that the new Liberian government "must cooperate fully with the international community to ensure that former President Charles Taylor is brought to court.

"Should Mr. Taylor continue to evade justice, the international community may show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone." With these words, former Chief



Prosecutor of the International Court in Sierra Leone Professor David Crane summarized the positioning in Washington, the UN Headquarters in New York, and in Freetown that is currently haunting the six-week-old administration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Prof. Crane was, last Wednesday, addressing US House Sub-Committee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations on "The Impact of Liberia's Elections on West Africa".

Besides fears that the international community may show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia, he warned that there will be no prospect for lasting peace in West Africa, if exiled Former Liberian Leader Charles Taylor is not surrendered to the International tribunal.

In his view, Liberia and the ECOWAS subregion will only be at peace and stable if Charles Taylor is handed over to the Special Court where he would be out of the local and regional political dynamics.

In this position, he asserted, Taylor would not be able to "undermine President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's initial efforts to develop a legitimate and accountable government in Liberia." He then urged the International Community to forcefully urge the George Bush administration and President Johnson Sirleaf to demand that Nigeria hand over Charles Taylor to the special court in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Mr. Crane a visiting Professor of Law at the Syracuse University's College of Law in the United States then summed up what he thought of the man Charles Taylor: "Taylor is the catalyst for most human tragedy and political instability in West Africa, and he is a dark cloud over war ravaged Liberia, which he personally destroyed for his own criminal gains." Delivering an opening statement to the hearing, Congressman Ed Royce concurred with Mr. Crane's position that the security and stability of the ECOWAS subregion is tied to Taylor's trial in Sierra Leone by the Special Court on 17-count charges of crimes against humanity.

Congressman Royce reiterated his warning last December along with a Congressional bipartisan group of eight lawmakers that American aid may likely be tied to Taylor's extradition.

"I'm going to amplify and fine-tune this concern. This friend of Liberia has very little interest in providing more money to rebuild Liberia until its President brings Taylor, a known force for destruction, one step closer to justice by calling on Nigeria's President to send him to the Special Court," he said.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of States Condoleezza Rice back in December, he said progress in Liberia and the international community's considerable investment in the region is in jeopardy so long as Mr. Taylor is permitted to elude justice and meddle in Liberian politics.

Secretary Rice was at the time conferring with President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Washington on the way forward in Liberia after elections.

In the views of Californian Congressman Royce as with Crane and the Campaign Against Impunity, a coalition of over three hundred African and international civil society groups, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has resisted calls to transfer Mr. Taylor and that therefore the only option left was for President Sirleaf to act now to help the international community stabilize the region.

Incidentally the Liberian group, Liberian United for Transparent Elections, sanctioned the call in its statement issued last December.

"However, President Obasanjo has committed to consider an extradition request made by a democratically-elected Liberian government. That is why we are asking you to request that President-Elect Johnson-Sirleaf now call for the Nigerian government to deliver Mr. Taylor to the Special Court. While some will argue that the 'timing is not right,' we believe that the present situation provides a unique window of opportunity. Delay only works to Mr. Taylor's advantage. The time for action is now," Mr. Royce said.

He said the U.S. has devoted \$1,000,000,000.00 U.S. dollars over the years to Liberia's rebuilding and was committed to leading Liberia's postwar reconstruction provided the government in Monrovia cultivated the political will to play its role in the fight against impunity and justice.

Lloyd Pierson, Assistant administrator for the United States Agency for International development, (USAID), agreed, telling the Congressional Committee that President Sirleaf needs United States to take the lead in Liberia's reconstruction, to improve the lives of her people, and to complete the Liberian transition from war to peace and democracy.

Back in Freetown meanwhile, the Sierra Leonean Parliament, last Wednesday for the first time since the extradition crises erupted, unanimously passed a resolution urging the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

"Nigeria cannot ignore the growing consensus, both here and internationally, that Mr. Taylor's temporary asylum must be brought to an end. He must answer before the Special Court for what he has done to the people of this country and this region," said Special Court Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC in a welcome statement issued last week.

While the Liberian government is not known to have issued an official response to calls for Taylor's extradition in relations to Nigeria's demand, President Sirleaf and some administration insiders have been arguing that bringing Taylor back to Liberia would jeopardize the nation's security besides been irrelevant to its reconstruction agenda.

There are fears amongst Liberians that Taylor's extradition from Liberia to Sierra Leone on Nigeria's terms as Congressman Royce and others are urging, may likely spark off riots in Monrovia as well as provide alibis for troublemakers to subvert the already fragile security of the country.

"Many see it as political issue as opposed to justice and a fight against impunity. So since the trial is not needed to reconcile our people and rebuild this nation, it is unfortunate that it can be brought up as a central issue. So why are they dragging us into this? We did not sent Taylor there; they did," insisted a Liberian legislator who preferred to remain anonymous.

He said Taylor's indictment by the Special Court came to the fore in Accra in June 2003 and that without Liberia's involvement it was handled through a special secret pact by the international community including the U.S. and British governments.

"If anyone should ask Nigeria to turn Taylor over, it should be the international community; we do not have the capacity to take the security and political risks involved. Our mandate is to reunite the Liberian people and rebuild this country, not to hunt Taylor in order to be seeing as fighting on the side of regional or international drives against justice and impunity," he noted further.

According to him, that Liberians wanted no part of any lengthy court adjudication can be seen in the overwhelming support for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission rather a war crimes court.

While this argument is logical, analysts say, it overlooked arguments by Nigeria that it can deliver Taylor only to an elected government in Liberia and that by some elements of the international community that Taylor being accorded VIP treatment in the eastern Nigerian sea resort city of Calabar with freehand to influence activities inside Liberia is a potential trouble for the subregion.

It ignored also arguments that unless the new Liberian government incorporates the Taylor factor as an overall part of its reconstruction and peace agendas, postwar progress is unlikely in Liberia.

Whether or not Nigeria's concession to turn Taylor over only to Liberia, knowing full well that Liberia does not have the capacity, is a clause from the special secret pact that saw Taylor off to Nigeria under the escort

of the ECOWAS Vanguard Peacekeeping Force on August 11, 2003 is anybody's guest, observers say.

Liberia has no standing army of its own. It is now being guarded by a 15000-strong UN peacekeeping force, UNMIL, that has received a UN mandate last December to apprehend Taylor if he stepped foot on Liberian soil.

But can UNMIL do that under Liberian law or will it require extra Liberian government judicial dispensation given that there is no extradition treaty between Liberia and Sierra Leone?

This, some say, is a jigsaw puzzle with pieces being far-flung and held by sides seeking desperately to have their ways.

"A clue to this puzzle will tell whose responsibility it is to send Taylor to Sierra Leone for trial," said schoolteacher Momoh Varfley of New Georgia.

Watching the seemingly concerted international pressure for Taylor's extradition, observers are worried that the issue is taking on a dimension that is not original.

Recalling that the Liberian peace formula brokered by the ICGL and some influential western governments did not include Taylor's extradition, observers say its insertion in the formula now is a potential wedge that requires concerted review involving all stakeholders.

"Perhaps," said University of the Liberia senior political science student, Timothy Parlon, "the raging issue of national security as stressed by Liberian government officials and the dollar diplomacy being applied by the donor community to railroad Liberia into compliance will be resolved amicably." Until that is done, according to him, the issue of Taylor will haunt the Sirleaf Administration to its unpopularity.

The irony of the situation, though, is that sides to the issue including Washington, human rights organizations, and officials in Monrovia, are arguing for and against Taylor's extradition to Freetown via Monrovia on the basis of Liberia's security.

"So who is talking in favor of Liberia's security on the basis of the definitive goals brokered by ICGL?" is the question that analysts say will have to be answered in the next weeks.

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## UN envoy warns Ivorian government

By James Copnall  
BBC News, Abidjan

**A senior United Nations official has begun a visit to the Ivory Coast by speaking out about what he sees as the worsening humanitarian crisis there.**

Jan Egeland warned the authorities against attacks on civilians and NGOs, and said that the UN was watching.

There is a worsening humanitarian situation in Ivory Coast, which is divided by civil war.

Last month, supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo demonstrated against the UN, saying it sided with the rebels.

The recent demonstrations caused millions of dollars of damage to UN buildings and chased the UN humanitarian agencies out of the west of the country.

Jan Egeland, the UN's deputy secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said the international organisation would not back down.

"I'm here to tell political authorities, military authorities in the north and the south and in the west, that they are being watched, that people should not be able to act... with apparent impunity," he said.

"That when hate media in a Rwandan style asks for attacks against defenceless civilians, for minorities being chopped up and for international humanitarian organizations to be attacked, people should be brought to justice," he said.

Mr Egeland says that civilians in Ivory Coast are more unprotected than almost anywhere else in the world.

He called on the international community to punish those responsible.

This month the UN has imposed individual sanctions on two supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo and on a rebel commander.

During his three-day visit to Ivory Coast, Mr Egeland will travel to the rebel-held north of the country and also the west, which is often described as a humanitarian disaster zone.

Ivory Coast has been in crisis since rebels seized the north of the country in September 2002.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4718520.stm>

Published: 2006/02/16 01:44:27 GMT



UNMIL/PIO/PR/20

Press release, 15 February 2006

**UNMIL redeploys one mechanized infantry company to Côte d'Ivoire;**  
**Action taken to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1657**

**Monrovia, Liberia** -- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is today deploying one mechanized infantry company to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in order to implement a recently adopted UN Security Council resolution. The Force Commander of UNMIL, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, announced this redeployment at a press conference at the peacekeeping mission's headquarters in Monrovia today.

According to the UNMIL Force Commander, "this deployment is part of the long-standing inter-mission cooperation in West Africa" and he reminded that the first peacekeepers sent to Liberia in 2003 came from the former UN peacekeeping mission in neighboring Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL.

The redeployment of the troops between the two UN remaining peacekeeping missions in West Africa was authorized by the Security Council on 6 February when it adopted Resolution 1657. Due to last month's outbreak of violence in Côte d'Ivoire, the troops are being sent there to provide extra security coverage for United Nations personnel and property, and to perform other tasks mandated to UNOCI. The Security Council has expressed its intention to review these arrangements by the end of March, in light of the situation on the ground.

The mechanized infantry company is being provided by Nigeria and the unit consists of 200 soldiers and officers together with 14 armoured personnel carriers and support vehicles. The redeployment of troops and equipment started on 14 February when an advance party was airlifted from Liberia to Abidjan. The main body of the unit will be deployed today using strategic airlift resources. The full redeployment will be completed on Friday, 17 February.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, reminded the citizens of Liberia that, despite the redeployment of the company of Nigerian peacekeepers to Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations will continue to have a highly capable and robust peacekeeping force in Liberia consisting of close to 15,000 troops, and 1,100 UN police officers.

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## Norway takes Rwanda genocide case

**Norway has agreed to become the first country outside Africa to try a Rwandan genocide suspect.**

The backlogged United Nations court set up to try those responsible for the 1994 killings is to transfer the defendant from its base in Tanzania.

Michel Bagaragaza was head of the Rwandan tea industry and is accused of organising his staff into a militia.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor said that three other European countries had also agreed to hear some cases.

An estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered during the genocide.

### No death penalty

Prosecutor Hassan Jallow told the BBC the European states were picked for their standards of justice and because they did not impose the death penalty, which the tribunal does not allow.

Correspondents say this stand has angered Rwanda, which has repeatedly demanded that the accused be transferred to its jurisdiction.

But this option has not been acceptable to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), as Rwanda will not repeal the death penalty.

The defence has agreed to Mr Bagaragaza's case being heard in Norway, where he will be imprisoned if found guilty.

He faces a maximum sentence of 21 years in prison if convicted.

Mr Bagaragaza is accused of working with tea factory workers to kill Tutsis who had sought refuge in the north-western Gisenyi region.

He was seen as being close to Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose death in a plane crash on 6 April, 1994, sparked the 100-day massacres.

### Time constraints

Correspondents say the Arusha tribunal has set very high standards of justice, but tried very few cases.

Since the court started in 1997, the ICTR has convicted 23 suspects and acquitted three.

But correspondents note that pressure has grown on the tribunal to find other countries to hear its cases, as the genocide involved huge numbers of people.

The court is due to be disbanded in 2008.