

**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:**

Monday, 16 January 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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# Contents

## Sierra Leone Media

"I Believe in Justice for the Under-Privileged" – Joseph Kamara <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Hinga Norman Endorses Security Threat <i>Democrat</i>	Page 4
APC Leadership, "Don't Become a Security Risk" <i>Democrat</i>	Pages 5-6
Ernest, Margai to Meet Norman <i>African Champion</i>	Page 7
Subversion: 3 More Arrested <i>Awoko</i>	Page 8
Margai Takes Over Omrie Golley's Defence <i>Independent Observer (several other newspapers published similar stories)</i>	Page 9

## International Media

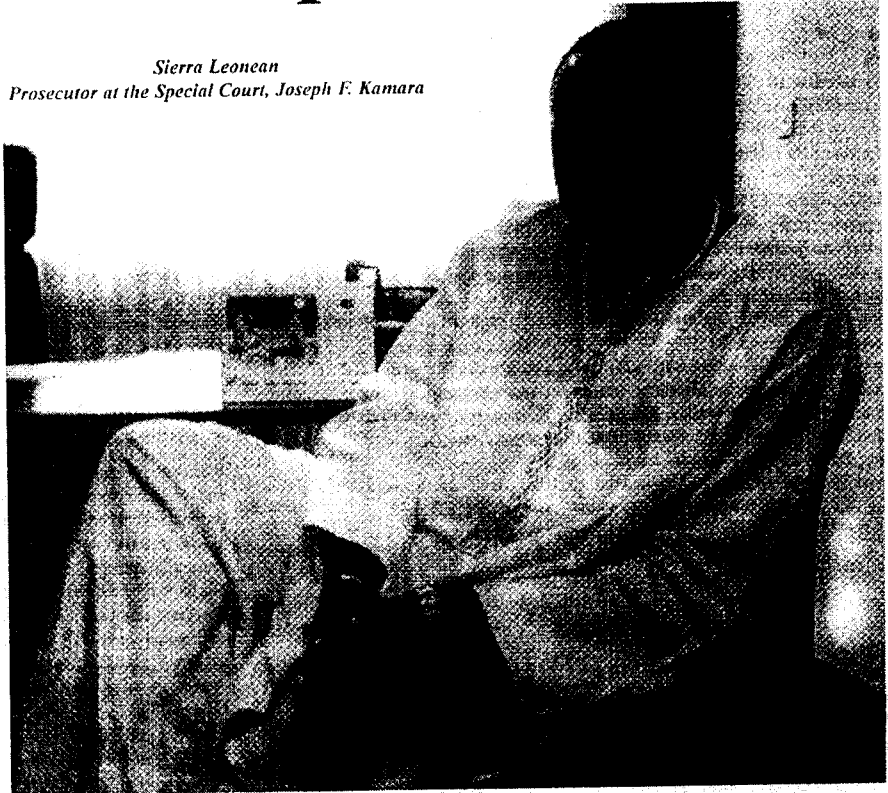
Fight Impunity, Corruption, Liberia Told <i>Star Radio</i>	Page 10
Liberia President to be Sworn In <i>BBC</i>	Pages 11-12
Liberia's Leader Faces Toughest Tasks <i>Business in Africa</i>	Page 13
US Sending Senior Delegation to Liberia Inauguration <i>VOA</i>	Pages 14-15
First Lady Laura Bush Heads U.S. Delegation to Liberian Inaugural Liberia is a Bush Administration Priority, State Department's Frazer Says <i>Washington File</i>	Pages 16-17
Grandmother Rules in Liberia Today <i>Dispatch</i>	Pages 18-19
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 Jan. 2006 <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 20-23
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 Jan. 2006 <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 24-25

# 'I believe in justice for the underprivileged'-Joseph Kamara

**By Betty Milton**  
One of the senior Sierra Leonean prosecutors at the Special Court, Joseph F. Kamara tells Awoko that he believes "in justice for the underprivileged". In an exclusive interview, he says his passion is to seek justice for victims of crimes, adding that prosecuting has been part of him, as he wants justice to be meted out. "That is always the reason why I like prosecuting. Because I believe in someone being punished for a crime committed against people that are vulnerable," he notes. He maintains that he always handles cases he believes in and takes strong decision from the fact that in prosecuting an individual there is strong grounds to support any charge he wants to put forward. The legal luminary states that being a prosecutor, he has always put himself above any case he is dealing with

regardless of the outcome. He says some times when an accused is acquitted and discharged in some instance, the acquittal may result from some factors which includes, if the acquittal result from lack of understanding between the jurors or maybe poor direction from the judge as to the correct verdict, "you feel disappointed but according to my own training I have always elevated myself above the case even though you have passion you don't descend on the issue wherein if they find an accused not guilty means you have failed". About the CDF inditees, Lawyer Joseph Kamara believes justice will be dispensed as no one is above the law. He however stresses that he is confident in the evidence and all he wants is justice for the people of Sierra Leone. On a final note, he says one of his ambitions after the Special Court is to be Attorney General.

*Sierra Leonean  
Prosecutor at the Special Court, Joseph F. Kamara*



# Hinga Norman Endorses Security Threat

Special Court indictee and former CDF National Coordinator Chief Sam Hinga Norman has allegedly endorsed an ultimatum purportedly issued by a group of combatants and ex-combatants from the CDF, RUF and AFRC.

The ultimatum which they claimed was dispatched to parliament through the minority leader Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma warned that unless the guarantors of the Lome Accord stopped violating the document they

would have "all ministers of government and other individuals, foreign or national, involved in the continued violation of the Accord, arrested and prosecuted after the expiration of the deadline."

The release dated 4th January 2006, purported that the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone had trained and armed ex-combatants for clandestine missions in neighbouring Liberia.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman is alleged to have endorsed

the ultimatum which was to have taken effect past Saturday, 14th January.

This came in the wake of the arrest of RUF spokesman Omrie Golley over the weekend by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for alleged involvement in subversive activities.

He was still being held at the time of going to press. Police said the situation was under control. Read the ultimatum below:

## For Public Release

Freetown, 4 January, 2006

Preamble: In 1997, Chief Sam Hinga Norman after learning of a pending military coup against the government of Sierra Leone, appropriately warned President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of the coup plot.

Government failed to take appropriate steps to avert the coup or prepare the public for its consequences. In 1999, after learning of the January 6 incursion into Freetown by elements of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Chief Norman again warned the government and government again failed to take the necessary steps with the result of thousands of lives lost in Freetown. Once again! having been made aware of a clear and present danger posed by combatants and ex-combatants some of whom have been over the past two years recruited and re-armed by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for clandestine operations in Liberia, has sent a warning to Parliament and the President regarding this grave threat to our national security. It is now left with government as to how they wish to respond to this situation. It is in this vein that the following release is being made to the public and the international community, and in particular, the guarantors of the 1999 Lome Accord.

Ref: Violations of the Lome Accord

Following a series of meetings between former Regent Chief, Samuel Hinga Norman, and leader of the Opposition All Peoples Congress (APC), Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma, we the representatives of the Combatants and Ex-Combatants of the AFRC, CDF and RUF wish to inform the people of Sierra Leone and the international community, in particular, the guarantors of the Lome Accord (Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, the US and UK) as follows:

I. The government of Sierra Leone in arresting the leaders of the AFRC, CDF and the RUF is in violation of the Amnesty Provisions of the Lome Accord of 7th July, 1999 and in particular Articles II, III & IX (copy attached) signed by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on behalf of the government and people of Sierra Leone and Cpl. Foday Saybana Sankoh on behalf of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

II. Unless Parliament addresses these violations within ten (10) days for the notification of Parliament which shall expire on 14 January, 2006, we the members of

ernment and individuals, foreign or national involved in the continued violation of the Lome Accord as stated.

III. We have relayed this message through the Hon. Chief Sam Hinga Norman to be relayed to the government of Sierra Leone and the international community.

I, Samuel Hinga Norman, JP, attest and declare that this is a true faith facsimile of the message delivered to Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma to be relayed to Parliament and the international community on the 4th day of January, 2006. Any future communications or explanations may be addressed to me or Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma up to the stated deadline after which I no longer answer any questions related to this matter.

God Bless the people of Sierra Leone;

God Save the Republic

### Editor's Note

*We may not endorse Siaka Stevens' style of leadership but we will borrow a leaf from his political dictum - "Eternal vigilance is the prize of liberty." A robust security mechanism is paramount in every post war situation to deal with unwarranted excesses that have the potential to re-ignite chaos and anarchy. That is the way we want things to happen here. From all indications, our hard-earned peace seems to be threatened. There is not a single family in this country that did not suffer one abuse or another during the ten-year carnage. This makes provision of security a collective responsibility. All of us have to be on board. Had it not been for the vigilance of our security forces we might have gone back to where we are just coming from. Heavens forbid! We must not allow this to happen. Our security forces have so far demonstrated that in the absence of UNAMSIL, they have the capacity to live to the task for which they exist. But the truth is that they will not totally achieve their objective of providing maximum security without participation of the people. Until we realize that the destiny of Mother Sierra Leone lies in the hands of us Sierra Leoneans, we shall not see light at the end of the tunnel. Maintaining security is our biggest challenge in the wake of UNAMSIL's departure, so we should all make significant input to ensure a safer and stable society otherwise posterity will judge us.*

Democrat — APC Leadership, “Don’t Become a Security Risk” By Allieu Badara Kamara  
16 January 2006

*By Allieu Badara Kamara*

**THE physical casualties of this war are not alone the catastrophes. The causalities of principles and values are equally disastrous and injurious. Indeed they are ultimately more harmful because they are self-perpetuating.**

What good is it to play the politics of atrocious numbers and immorality because of votes? It is most unfortunate to read and hear that the APC leadership visited a man that the international community has alleged to be an abuser and destroyer of humanity. It is to be accepted now that the APC of violence, of intimidation of destruction of constitutional mutilator is throwing her hat with the Special Court indietee Sam Hingan Norman. It is further accepted globally by Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora and here at home that the APC institutionalized corruption and thuggery.

If these attributes are wrong, why now are we reading their desperation towards seeking moral and notorious material support from a discredited man whose undemocratic values and ambition brought down thousands of lives in the name of restoring the SLPP government?

It should be appreciated that the President of Peace Dr. Alhaji Tejan Kabba told the world though the BBC, that Chief Norman exceeded his constitutional mandate. Is practicing cannibalism, slaughtering opponents prematurely delivering babies a right, gallant behavior, to restore democracy?

hope the old heads of the APC will not allow these unpatriotic and notorious meetings to continue. If APC deserves to win, let it be honourable and devoid of any hedonistic and bloodthirsty supporter.

The politics of numbers is good, but let the dreadful sins of killers and cannibals and all atrocious acts of yesteryears be left out of his new politics of hope, peace and stability. Why now APC, have you decided to play such an unpatriotic role? Is consolidating peace and stability an enemy to your party, you contributed in your own little way in bringing peace and fostering democracy from your parliamentary seats, why have you decided to roll back the clock and remove the carpet under peace consolidation stability and progress? A peace, UNMASIL

is and the world have paid for dearly and supported monstrously. Are you telling the world body, the people of Sierra Leone, our parliament that Hingan Norman and others do not deserve the Special Court? Is the fight for justice, political or humanitarian interest strange bed fellow to the APC, Are you trying to score political points by injecting the blood of hate, bitterness and division? “When evil men plot good men must plan, when evil men born and bomb good men must build and bind.” This is

***We must work as a people to lift this nation that we all love to a higher height. We must move away from the politics of hate, intimidation, violence, bitterness and manipulation. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy***

exactly what the SLPP is doing. And have done to bring peace stability and reconciliation to our country No words or actions against consolidating peace, progress and development can derail their position; for this country Sierra Leone is bigger than any confused party or group of individuals.

Our hope for creating living in this world house that we have inherited lies in our ability to re-establish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice.

If APC visiting Hingha Norman in prison has any negative effect against the SLPP, I want those unpatriotic sons and inimical state actors to think twice. Is Hingha democratic? Who was the first coupist in the history of Sierra Leone? Who placed Siaka Stevens, and the Governor General under house arrest? APC, you are politically myopic and pregnant with falsities. Wake up APC and market your party’s manifesto, hopes and aspiration for Sierra Leone. Avoid self- destruction and avoid playing this nauseating political game. I want you to take note APC that your visit at the Special Court at this time is a real show of desperation. Was Tejan Kabba against peace consolidation, justice and reconciliation?

Come home APC and face political reality and honesty. This act is a national one that deserves national credibility. I know the suffering of the Northerners in the South East and the killing fields we are now hearing about from witnesses at the Special Court, all should be taken seriously and not to be treated for political gains. Is APC oblivious of those facts? Please don't remind us of those ugly days I plead with your leadership APC not to bring back home those ugly periods of the Treason Trials. Coups, executions, assassination, they should be treated as history and never to be repeated in our country history.

Let us allow justice to be the answer to our problems and not intimidation and desperation. I only hope you can see reason to play a more constructive and honorable political game. Don't remind this country of your trade marks, because SLPP is moving forward to make a difference in our country. Construction, rehabilitation, and the fight against poverty and youth unemployment are top most in their agenda and not to play the politics of division hate, and intimidation.

We must work as a people to lift this nation that we all love to a higher height. We must move away from the politics of hate, intimidation, violence, bitterness and manipulation.

Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy. APC your party color of RED in any traffic means stop please stop mesmerizing population with outrageous politics gymnastics. Stop confusing us with your no alternative political plans.

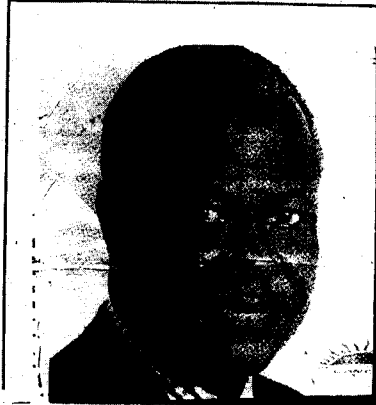
Now APC, allow the Special Court to perform her duties, allow her to show us justice and educate us against impunity. So much has happened in our political history, help justice to succeed and don't play politics with such a historical setting for the good of man and our society.

***If APC visiting Hingha Norman in prison has any negative effect against the SLPP, I want those unpatriotic sons and inimical state actors to think twice. Is Hingha democratic?***

# Ernest, Margai To Meet Norman

Former Deputy Defense, Internal Affairs Minister and Chief Coordinator of the 'Kamajor' militia and national war hero and Special Court Indicted, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, last week declared support to the friendly relationship between Ernest Bai Koroma of APC and Charles Francis Margai of the yet to be registered PMDC, Special Court sources intimated the *African Champion* over the weekend.

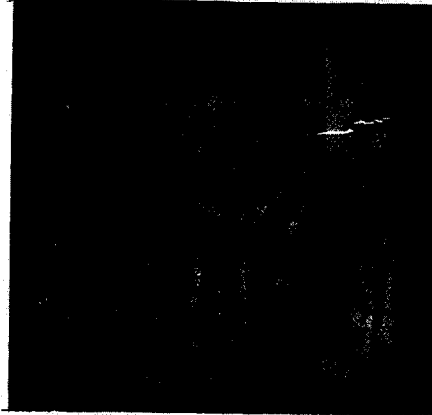
Chief Norman's support, the reports said, came shortly after the first visit of APC leader, Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma in the New Year to the incarcerated war hero at his Special Court cells. The reports stated that Hinga Norman told the APC leader that he was detained illegally against the Lome Peace Agreement, which brought the peace Sierra Leoneans are



**APC Leader Ernest Bai Koroma**

enjoying today. The Lome Agreement, it could be recalled, granted blanket amnesty to all the warring factions in the civil conflict. "I was illegally imprisoned," Norman quoted to have told Ernest Koroma. However, Hon. Koroma did not stop short after his extraordinary meet-

ing with Norman but lashed out at government and the International Community for the war hero's predicament. The APC leader skid for peace to retain in mother Sierra Leone, government and their international helpers must respect all the angles that brought about the democratic



**War Hero, Chief Hinga Norman**

principles, especially the Lome Agreement.

"But some senior SLPP stalwarts even want Norman dies in prison because they had always been afraid of him as a major threat to their Presidential ambitions," a spokesman for the detained politician maintained.

The *African Champion* confirmed that the APC has vowed to put aside partisan politics,

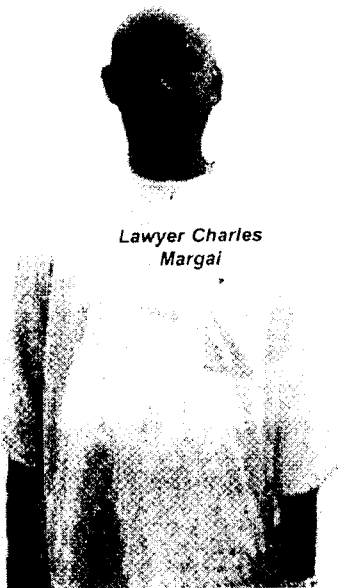
tribalism, regionalism and all else in order to secure the release of Norman through all existing means at their disposal.

"If Chief Norman cannot get proper justice from the Special Court in Sierra Leone, then we will left with no option

but to ask for his immediate transfer to The Hague where we would field a battery of expert lawyers to defend and get him freed for the good of all Sierra Leoneans," a close aide to Ernest Koroma told this press. The APC according to some school of thoughts at home and abroad, are convinced that Chief Norman and Charles Margai issues will certainly deprive the SLPP of their chance to win the 2007 elections. A spokesman of Hinga Norman has lately intimated to this press that the war hero is deciding to invite officially the two political gurus (Ernest and Margai) to a meeting where he might table a complaint against the SLPP top brass.

Sierra Leone

W. J. N.



Lawyer Charles  
Margai

# Subversion: 3 more arrested

By Kelvin Lewis

Three more people have been arrested in connection with the government claims of subversion disclosed Thursday evening by President Kabbah over state radio and television.

The names of the three have not been officially disclosed though speculations are rife that they may be former Westside

boys, most of whom were initially soldiers.

These three according to Police sources now join Omrié Golley in helping the police with their investigations. Golley it will be recalled was picked up in his hotel room shortly before he was due to fly out on the SN Brussels flight to Europe on Thursday evening. According to his lawyer Charles Margai,

speaking over the BBC Focus on Africa programme on Saturday Golley is being held at the Aberdeen police station where he is kept in the cells at night and during the day he is allowed in the open to have audience with his lawyer. The 72 hours legal deadline for him to be held without charge expired yesterday Sunday and it is not yet clear whether he could be brought before a

Magistrate today for the police to secure an order to continue to detain him while they conclude their investigations, or whether official charges would be preferred against him.

If according to President Kabbah he is charged for subversion then for the first time Golley will be taken to the Pademba road prisons - a place he has cleverly avoided being lodged despite his activities with the rebels.



# Margai Takes Over Omrie Golley's Defence

*says Kabbah's  
statement is alarming*



*Kabbah, Margai (right) says his  
statement is alarming*

Controversial lawyer and politician, Charles Margai has taken up the defence of former RUF spokesman, Omrie Golley, who was arrested last Thursday by the state on allegation of subversion.

Police authorities are yet to make any public statement on the issue, but surprisingly, an unusual government statement from the President's office says the police are currently investigating the issue and will inform the public in due course.

Golley, who was arrested shortly after his arrival in Freetown, is currently detained at the Aberdeen Police Station, but Margai says he's in good health, only depressed.

Margai, speaking on the *BBC* last Saturday, was unable to confirm on what allegations Golley was arrested.

*"I have been in touch with the Criminal Investigation Department to ascertain the cause of his arrest especially against the background that no charges have been levied against him,"* Margai said.

He said under Sierra Leonean laws, nobody should be detained for more than 72 hours without charges, making reference to Golley whose 72 hours detention deadline expires last Saturday.

Margai said the fact that the statement was coming from the President himself instead of the Police was very alarming.

## Star Radio (Liberia)

January 13, 2006 Friday

### **Fight impunity, corruption, Liberia told**

Text of report by independent Liberian Star Radio on 13 January

The French-based International Federation for Human Rights has released its 2005 report on Liberia.

The report says the culture of impunity and corruption are factors contributing to the downward trend in the country.

The 30-page report released in collaboration with the Liberian Watch for Human Rights urged Madam Sirleaf's government to fight impunity.

The executive director of the Liberia Watch for Human rights, Thompson Adebayo, told Star Radio the report would have serious implications on the political future of Liberia.

The report also called on Nigeria to cooperate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone for the extradition of former President Charles Taylor to face justice.

## Liberia president to be sworn in

**Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is to be sworn in as the new Liberian president, making her Africa's first elected woman head of state.**

Senior figures from Africa and around the world will attend the inauguration ceremony in the capital, Monrovia.

Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf told supporters she wanted to restore hope after years of civil war. She says law and order is the main challenge facing the nation.

Security has been stepped up in and around Monrovia ahead of the ceremony.

About 500 UN peacekeeping troops have been redeployed to the area and more Liberian police will be on the capital's streets.

Two US Navy warships are stationed off Liberia's coast, in a show of support for Mrs Sirleaf-Johnson's presidency.

**I am excited by the potential of what I represent - the aspirations and expectations of women in Liberia, African women and women all over the world**  
Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

They will also protect US First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who are among those expected to attend.

Other guests include Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, John Kufuor of Ghana, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and the Chinese foreign minister.

Thousands of volunteers have been repainting buildings, bridges and road signs and clearing rubbish from Monrovia's streets in readiness.

The swearing-in ceremony will make Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf Liberia's first elected head of state since the end of 14 years of war in 2003.

The 67-year-old grandmother won 59% of the vote in November's run-off election, beating Liberian football star George Weah.

### **Huge challenges**

Speaking on the eve of her inauguration, she vowed to restore hope to her country's people and give its children back their youth and future.

"I am excited by the potential of what I represent - the aspirations and expectations of women in Liberia, African women and women all over the world," she said.

"I am also humbled, humbled by the enormity of the challenge we face."

A former World Bank economist and veteran politician, Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf is nicknamed the Iron Lady but has promised to show a new, softer side as president.

The challenges which lie ahead as she begins her six-year term are great.

After a quarter of a century of war and misrule, Liberia's road network is in ruins, there is no national telephone network and no national electricity grid.

Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf has also pledged to fight widespread corruption.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4615764.stm>

Published: 2006/01/16 04:02:21 GMT

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## Liberia's leader faces tough tasks

'16-JAN-06 07:28'

MONROVIA - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has officially takes over the running of Liberia and faces the unenviable task of rebuilding one of the world's most failed states ruined by 14 years of devastating civil war.

After Monday's pomp and fanfare, the Harvard-educated economist and widowed grandmother's task is to reconstruct the country's broken infrastructure left to collapse by former regimes which used the country's resources to finance the war and siphoned off the rest for personal use.

Sirleaf will be inaugurated at ceremonies attended by several African heads of states and a high-profile US delegation led by First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The country has in recent days spruced up for the ceremony and beefed up security across the capital city.

At 67, Sirleaf, will lead a country, half of whose population has the unusual misfortune of being less educated than their own parents, and where the most youths have known no peace in their life.

Unemployment hovers at over 80 percent, while electricity and running water are considered a luxury.

Huge amounts of foreign aid would be needed to jump-start economic and social recovery in the continent's oldest republic - founded by freed slaves in 1847.

The European Commission, one of Liberia's dozens of generous donors, recently lifted its sanctions, paving the way for the resumption of the flow of foreign aid from its member states.

Liberia's donors have tied any future aid to the country to a controversial but authoritative governance and economic management plan (Gemap) that would require co-signatures on any deal Liberia reaches for exploitation of its natural resources.

All revenues, either from its lucrative shipping registry or port or customs duties, will also be audited and accounted for under the plan, as will the judicial reforms necessary to put Liberia back on track towards law and order.

Sirleaf, who had previously expressed disquiet about Gemap, now sees it as a "gap-filling" measure that her government will prove is unnecessary after the first three years of her term.

Among her other mammoth tasks are judicial reforms in a country where underpaid judges had been rendered weak appendages of the the presidency.

The United Nations (UN) estimates that half of the rural magistrates in Liberia are illiterate.

The UN, which has a presence of 15,000 peacekeepers, has committed millions of dollars to Liberia.

A quarter of a million Liberians - from a total population of 3.6 million - were killed in the wars between 1989 and 2003 while hundreds of thousand of others were maimed and bear permanent scars of the brutal war.

In the run-up to Sirleaf's installation, 64 lawmakers and 30 senators took the oath of office in Monrovia on Friday and elected Edwin Snowe, son-in-law of former president Charles Taylor, as the assembly's president.

The position is the third most powerful in the Liberian hierarchy after the president and the vice-president.

Taylor has been indicted by the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone for "crimes against humanity" over his role in sponsoring rebels who fought in Sierra Leone's gruesome 10-year war.

The US has called for Taylor, who is in exile in Nigeria, to be submitted for trial by the Sierra Leone-based tribunal to face war crimes now that Liberia has a new government.

Sapa-AFP

## US Sending Senior Delegation to Liberia Inauguration

By David Gollust  
State Department  
13 January 2006



Photo: U.S. State Department

**Liberian President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (l) with Secretary of State Rice**

*The United States is sending a high-ranking delegation, including First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to next Monday's inauguration of Liberian President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Johnson-Sirleaf, a former World Bank official, will be Africa's first elected woman president.*

The United States has invested hundreds of millions of dollars for peacekeeping and reconstruction in Liberia since civil warfare ended with the departure of former President Charles Taylor in 2003.

The presence of the first lady and Secretary Rice at the inauguration is intended to underline U.S. hopes that Liberia is now on a stable, democratic path after years of turmoil.

Charles Taylor went into exile in Nigeria as part of an agreement to end 14 years of Liberian civil warfare, even though he was under indictment by a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity for assisting a brutal rebel movement in that country.

Taylor at one point vowed to return to Liberia and U.S. officials say he has remained in touch with followers there.

However, at a news briefing Friday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer said Taylor's influence is waning and he had no perceptible effect on the November election won by Johnson-Sirleaf.

"At every point in this transition, there's been fear of Charles Taylor, and at every point this transition has succeeded," she said. "So I think that whether he's trying to influence or not trying to influence, he hasn't been successful in doing so. I think that the Liberian people have voted for freedom, they voted to have a voice in their government, and Charles Taylor represents the exact opposite. And so I think his influence on the progress of Liberia is extremely limited, if nil."

Assistant Secretary Frazer said the United States continues to seek the handover of Taylor to the Sierra Leone special court, and considers it positive that Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo made a pledge to do so in his U.N. General Assembly address in September.

Despite the lack of action on the Taylor case, Frazer said President Obasanjo has been a good partner on Liberia and that she expects him to do the right thing with regard to Taylor at the right time.

Under questioning, she said consultations with Nigeria on the issue are continuing and that in the U.S. view, now is the right time for Taylor to be handed over.

Following the Monday inauguration in Liberia, Secretary Rice will return to Washington while Mrs.

Bush makes two additional African stops, in Ghana and Nigeria.

Assistant Secretary Frazer will travel on to the Horn of Africa on a mission aimed at helping ease tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which have erupted anew in recent weeks over their border dispute.

The two countries fought a three-year war that ended in 2000 with the signing of a peace deal that required them to accept a new border demarcation by an international panel.

The border commission's decision in 2002 to award the key border town of Badme to Eritrea has not been fully accepted by Ethiopia and tensions heated up in November with both sides moving troops to the border area.

In U.N. Security Council consultations last week, the Bush administration said it would send Assistant Secretary Frazer and retired U.S. Marine General Carlton Fulford, an African affairs expert, to the border area to discuss how to move the demarcation process forward.

Under questioning here, Frazer said her initial priority will be to inspect the border to better understand the background of the conflict:

"The purpose of it is quite limited frankly and it's for me to see the border," she said. "One of the problems in the Ethiopia-Eritrea impasse over demarcation is that the international partners actually have to have the expertise to be able to assist them to find a solution to get that border demarcated. And I want to state that that is the U.S. objective: to see the boundary commission decision implemented. And I think that as the least I can do as a first step is to actually see the boundary, to actually go to the boundary to understand what exactly we're talking about."

Though Frazer said the boundary issue is the main reason for her visit, she said she also expects to discuss the human rights situation in Ethiopia, where thousands of perceived opponents of the government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi have been arrested since November with more than 100 facing treason charges.

The State Department last week said it was gravely concerned about the crackdown, which stems from unrest spawned by disputed parliamentary elections in May of last year.

Print

## Washington File

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=January&x=20060113162923WCyeroC4.116237e-03&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

13 January 2006

### **First Lady Laura Bush Heads U.S. Delegation to Liberian Inaugural Liberia is a Bush administration priority, State Department's Frazer says**

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

(Quoting Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer)

-SNIP-

#### MOVING PAST THE TAYLOR YEARS

Asked about former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, Frazer said the United States continues to believe that Taylor should be held accountable for atrocities he committed in Sierra Leone. "He was one of the major sources of instability in the region," she said of Taylor.

In a previous conversation between Rice and Liberia's president-elect, the secretary emphasized U.S. support for sending Taylor to the special court set up jointly by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone, Frazer said. "We are working with all the region to try to bring Charles Taylor to justice, including Nigeria," she added.

Continuing on that point, Frazer said, "We took as a positive sign that at the U.N. General Assembly [Nigerian] President [Olusegun] Obasanjo -- in his speech to the General Assembly -- also said that Charles Taylor should be returned [from Nigeria] to the Special Court" for Sierra Leone.

The mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is try those who bear the greatest responsibility for violations committed in Sierra Leone since November 30, 1996, in accordance with international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law.

"The United Nations Security Council resolution that the United States helped to draft gives the UNMIL the authority, if Charles Taylor should return to Liberia, to arrest him and take him to the Sierra Leone Special Court," Frazer told reporters. "So we have the instruments in place to be able to pursue bringing him to justice and making him accountable for the atrocities."

With the election of Johnson-Sirleaf, Frazer said, the Liberian people have voted for freedom and voted to have a voice in their government, and "Charles Taylor represents



the exact opposite" of that. Frazer said Taylor's influence on Liberia is "extremely limited" and that he has not hindered the country's democratic progress.

Frazer said Nigerian soldiers are still in Liberia as peacekeepers and that President Obasanjo has "as much a stake and interest in Liberia's future ... as any other country." Thus, she said, the Nigerian president "will do the right thing in regard to Charles Taylor at the right time. ... Certainly, the United States thinks now is the right time," she added.

# Dispatch



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## TODAY'S NEWS

Grandmother rules in Liberia today

Africa's first woman leader faces tough rebuilding task

ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF officially takes over the running of Liberia today, facing the unenviable task of rebuilding one of the world's most failed states - ruined by 14 years of devastating civil war.

The Harvard-educated economist and widowed grandmother's task is to reconstruct the country's broken infrastructure left by former regimes which used the country's resources to finance the war and siphoned off the rest for personal use.

## FEATURES

But first Sirleaf, Africa's first woman head of state, will be inaugurated at a ceremony by several African heads of states, including President Thabo Mbeki, and a high-profile delegation led by First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Mbeki, who will be joined by Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, said Sirleaf's victory on November 24 was "a victory not only for Liberian women in particular but represents a beacon of hope for women in Africa and the world in general".

Liberia was in recent days spruced up for today's ceremony and security across the country was beefed up.

At 67, Sirleaf, will lead a country, half of whose population has the unusual misfortune of being less educated than their own parents, and where most youths have known no peace in their lifetimes.

## LEISURE

Unemployment hovers at over 80 percent, while electricity and running water are considered a luxury.

Huge amounts of foreign aid would be needed to jump-start economic and social reconstruction in the continent's oldest republic which was founded by freed US slaves in 1847.

The European Commission, one of Liberia's dozens of donors, recently lifted its sanctions, paving the way for the resumption of the flow of foreign aid from its member states.

But donors have tied any future aid to the country to a controversial but authoritative governance and economic management plan (GEMAP) that would require co-signatories to deal with Liberia's reach for exploitation of its natural resources.

All revenue, either from its lucrative shipping registry or port or customs duties, will be audited and accounted for under the plan, as will the judicial reforms necessary to get the country back on track towards law and order.

## SERVICES

Sirleaf, who had previously expressed disquiet about GEMAP, now sees it as a "gap-measure" and believes her government will prove it is unnecessary after the first three years of her term.

Among her other mammoth tasks are judicial reforms in a country where underpaid judges have been rendered weak appendages of the presidency. The UN estimates that half of the magistrates in Liberia are illiterate.

The UN, which has a presence of 15000 peacekeepers, has committed millions of dollars to Liberia.

About 250000 Liberians - from a total population of 3,6million - were killed in the war between 1989 and 2003 while hundreds of thousands of others were maimed and bore permanent scars.

In the run-up to Sirleaf's installation, 64 lawmakers and 30 senators on Friday took office in Monrovia and elected Edwin Snowe, son-in-law of former president Charles Taylor, the assembly's president.

The position is the third most powerful in the Liberian hierarchy after the president and vice-president.

Taylor, in exile in Nigeria, has been indicted by the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone for "crimes against humanity" for sponsoring rebel forces in the war. - Sapa-AFP

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 Jan 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**USA Today** 13 January 2006

**New female Liberian leader needs support**

Change is coming to Africa, and it's coming in the form of a woman. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will become the first female president of Liberia -- and first in Africa -- Monday. But change might not come quickly.

**Monrovia readies for inauguration of Africa's first female leader**

MONROVIA, Jan 13, 2006 (AFP) - Former fighters of Liberia's brutal war have given their battered capital city a vigorous clean up in preparation for next week's official installation ceremony of Africa's first democratically elected female president.

**VOA** 13 January 2006

**Liberians Unimpressed by Inauguration Festivities**

By Nico Colombant, Monrovia

In Liberia, presidential inauguration festivities begin Saturday evening. But many Liberians are anxious for the festivities to give way to real work by the government of Africa's first elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

**Taylor ex-son-in-law elected Liberia House speaker**

By Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA, Jan 13 (Reuters) - A Liberian politician banned from leaving the country by the United Nations because of his ties to exiled former president Charles Taylor was elected on Friday to the West African country's third most powerful post. Taylor's former son-in-law Edwin Snowe was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives by 48 votes against 13 for his opponent Dusty Wolokollie, a political ally of president-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who takes office on Monday.

**U.S. sends two warships to Liberia for presidential inauguration**

Monrovia\_ (dpa) \_ The U.S. has dispatched two warships to the Liberian capital Monrovia to beef up security for Monday's inauguration of Africa's first elected female president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, press reports said Friday.

## **Trying Charles Taylor would open Pandora's box: ex-wife**

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Jan 13, 2006 (AFP) - Newly-elected to the Liberian parliament, the estranged wife of Liberia's notorious former president Charles Taylor believes that attempts to bring him before the UN-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone would open a Pandora's box. "If you talk about carrying Charles Taylor to Freetown, my opinion is that there will be lots of 'Charles Taylors' that will have to go to Freetown," Jewel Howard Taylor told AFP during an interview at her house in Congo Town, a posh suburb of the capital Monrovia.

## **EU to sign new cooperation agreement with Liberia**

BRUSSELS, Belgium--The European Union will sign a new cooperation agreement with **Liberia** next week, stepping up its aid to the war-ravaged country, officials said Friday.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

BBC 13/01/2006

### **Ex-rebel arrested in Sierra Leone**

**A former rebel spokesman in Sierra Leone has been arrested and detained on suspicion of "subversion".**

Omrie Golley was a senior figure in the Revolutionary United Front during the civil war and became a chief negotiator at peace talks that ended it in 1999.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Incoming Legislature Holds Elections Today**

*(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle, Poll Watch, The Independent, The Telegraph, New Standard, Plain Truth and The Diary)*

- Legislators-elect are due to hold elections today for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

### **American Warships Arrive for Inauguration**

*(The Inquirer, New Democrat, The Independent, The Liberian Diaspora, The Informer)*

- The U.S. Embassy announced in a press release yesterday that two naval ships of the United States Sixth Fleet have arrived off the waters of Monrovia to help commemorate the inauguration of Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

### **Johnson-Sirleaf's Lawyers Threaten Newspaper with Legal Action**

*(The Diary, The Telegraph, New Standard and The Plain Truth)*

- Lawyers representing President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf have demanded that *The Diary* retract a story involving Madame Johnson-Sirleaf and offer a public apology or face lawsuit, *The Diary* Editor Herbert Johnson said quoting a communication from the lawyers.

### **West African Group Wants UN Presence in Liberia Sustained**

*(New Democrat)*

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has requested that UNMIL sustain its presence in Liberia to ensure that the country receives the assistance it will need as it moves through its transitional period, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss told journalists in Monrovia this week. Mr. Doss recently attended the ECOWAS ministerial meeting in Niamey, Niger.

## **ECOWAS Leaders Commend Transitional Leader**

*(New Standard)*

- In a special resolution, West African Heads of State meeting at the 29<sup>th</sup> Summit of ECOWAS in Niger commended National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant for successfully completing his mandate as head of the transitional government.

## **Chinese Foreign Minister to Arrive on Sunday for Inauguration**

*(National Chronicle)*

- Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will arrive in Liberia on Sunday for the inauguration on Monday, according to the Chinese Embassy.

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

### **United States Navy Ships Arrive in Liberia’s Territorial Waters**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Armed Forces of Liberia Defence Committee Calls for Travel Ban on Defence Minister**

- In an interview, Armed Forces of Liberia Defence Committee Chairman, Col. Thomas Dowe, has called on the United Nations to impose a travel restriction on Defence Minister Daniel Chea so that he will face the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for allegedly killing three officials of the AFL in 1998.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Political Party Cautions New Government against Criminalizing the State**

- In a statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the opposition New Deal Movement cautioned President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Vice President-elect Joseph Boakai not to repeat mistakes of past regimes of personalizing State power as this contributed to the State’s collapse.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Interim Lawmakers’ Rules Committee Concerned about Looting at Capitol Building**

- National Transitional Legislative Assembly Rules and Order Committee Chairman Clarice Jah lamented that looters were removing properties of the Capitol Building.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Residents of Monrovia Lament Continuous Overflow of Sewage**

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, residents of Newport Street in Monrovia said that they are embarrassed by the offensive stench from the continuous overflow of sewage lines.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **African Union Pledges Support to President-Elect**

- Speaking at the opening of the Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Niamey, Niger, the African Union (AU) Chairman and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said that the AU will support the new Government of Liberia to consolidate peace and security.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Criminal Court Dismisses Extradition Case**

- Criminal Court Judge James Zota yesterday dismissed the extradition of Milee Kermue and Madame Wilma Dennis to the United States for allegedly defrauding the health-care program there and money laundering.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Transitional Assembly Passes Several Acts at Final Session**

- The National Transitional Legislative Assembly held its final session passing 15 Acts into Law. The Acts covered retirement benefits for former Heads of State, former lawmakers and justices and Judges.  
*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **International Human Rights Federation Annual Report Says Corruption and Impunity Pervasive in Liberia**

- According to its annual report for 2005, French-based International Federation for Human Rights said that corruption and impunity are responsible for Liberia's backwardness.  
*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

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

### **Bong County Police Arrest Brother of Former Rebel Leader for Assaults**

- A police source in Gbarnga, Bong County said that the brother of the defunct Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy leader, Habib Conneh, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and sexual assault. The police source added that Mr. Conneh ordered his men to beat up a resident of Sarwoh Town, Kpaili District and later assaulted the wife of his victim.

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

### **United Methodists from Africa and United States Head to Liberia for the Inauguration**

- United Methodist Church sources say a delegation of Methodists will arrive in Liberia from the United States and Africa to witness the inauguration of Madame Johnson-Sirleaf.

### **Street Peddlers Flout Government's Ban on Sale of Petroleum Products**

- The government's ban on the sale of petroleum product on the streets is not holding with peddlers still selling the products in bottles and rubber cans, a radio survey discovered yesterday.

*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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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 Jan 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Dignitaries gather in Liberia for Sirleaf's inauguration**

MONROVIA, Jan 15, 2006 (AFP) - Top-level American and African political leaders were to descend on the war-battered Liberian capital Monrovia on Sunday ahead of the inauguration of Africa's first elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

US First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will attend the ceremony on Monday, as well as presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, John Kufuor of Ghana, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone's Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Information Minister William Allen told AFP. Guinea, China and France will also be represented at high levels, he said.

**High hopes, tight security for new Liberia leader**

By Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA, Jan 15 (Reuters) - Three years ago, Prince More was part of a rebel army fighting to control Liberia's capital, Monrovia. But he has swapped his automatic rifle for a paint brush to help spruce up the city for Monday's inauguration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman to be elected a head of state in Africa.

Two U.S. warships have taken up positions off the coast of this small West African state, Africa's oldest independent republic which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847. U.S. secret service agents have flown in to join hundreds of U.N. peacekeeping troops who have set up extra checkpoints in Monrovia, while white-painted U.N. helicopters patrol overhead. The security is understandable in a country hardened by bloodshed and in which two out of the last four heads of state were murdered, one tortured to death after he was abducted from the protection of international peacekeepers.

**AP Online Regional – Africa** January 14, 2006

**Liberia President-Elect Promises Unity**

By HANS NICHOLS. Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia\_Liberia's president elect pledged to unite her war-battered country when she takes office Monday and earn the trust of international donors whose aid is crucial to rebuilding it. "Our challenge in our country is first and foremost the challenge of peace and security," Sirleaf said, addressing a forum of West African women in the capital, Monrovia.

**Mbeki congratulates Liberia's Sirleaf ahead of inauguration**

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 15, 2006 (AFP) - South African President Thabo Mbeki on Sunday congratulated Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ahead of her inauguration Monday, saying Africa's first woman head of state was "a beacon of hope" for women worldwide. "Your election is indeed a victory, not only for Liberian women in particular but it also represents a



beacon of hope for women in Africa and the world in general," Mbeki said in a statement issued in Pretoria.

Mbeki will travel to Monrovia on Monday to attend Sirleaf's inauguration at a ceremony attended by other African leaders and top ranking officials from more than a dozen countries.

VOA 15 January 2006

## **Music, Candles Usher in Liberia's Inauguration**

By Nico Colombant, Liberia

Spiritual music and candles symbolizing hope for peace and a better future have ushered in inauguration festivities for Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in war-shattered Liberia. The country has become the first in Africa to elect a female president.

Music praising Liberia's president-elect, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and United Nations peacekeepers enchanted thousands at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium late into the night Saturday to kick-off several days of inauguration festivities. At the highlight of the celebration, the crowd lit candles symbolizing peace with participants on the stadium's football field closely guarding the flames from being blown out by the wind. Most of the music had religious overtones.

## **Women, power and Africa: Liberia's Sirleaf joins select few**

PARIS, Jan 15, 2006 (AFP) - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will become Africa's first democratically elected female head of state when she is installed on Monday after winning election last year in the war-battered west African country.

Other women have led governments or held other senior positions in a number of countries, but none has been elected to the top state post.

In **Liberia** itself, Ruth Sando Perry was named president of a transitional state council in September 1996 by a regional bloc, but she was in the post for less than a year. Then the country was still locked in a civil war that had been raging since 1989.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **China unveils new 'win-win' partnership with Africa**

BAMAKO, Jan 15, 2006 (AFP) - China on Sunday unveiled the basics of a new relationship with Africa, based on a "win-win" concept of economic cooperation.

"China plans to establish and develop a 'new type of strategic partnership with Africa' characterised by equality and mutual trust on the political front, cooperation conducted on the basis of "win-win" economics with reinforced cultural exchanges," according to a document released in the Malian capital, Bamako, at the end of a visit by Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

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