

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Tuesday, 17 February 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
13 February 2009

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

Newspaper Summary

Secretary-General Ban Recommends no further adjustments in UNMIL Drawdown

(New Democrat)

- Given the tasks ahead for Liberia, the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon has recommended that no further adjustments to the military and police components of UNMIL be made for the mandated period.
- Mr. Ban said delayed polls in bordering Côte d'Ivoire and the recent military coup in Guinea have exacerbated the unpredictability in the sub-region. "Any negative trends in the security situation in these neighbouring countries will have a major impact on the situation in Liberia and its peace-building efforts."
- UNMIL is in the midst of the second phase of its drawdown during which troops levels are to be reduced by nearly 1,500, and further modifications could be made during the third and final segment which kicks off this September.

Liberia's Truth Commission Begins Hearing Economic Crimes

(Public Agenda, New Vision, Heritage, The Inquirer)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) will today begin Thematic Hearing for Economic Crimes at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia.
- Under the theme: "Economic Crimes, Corruption and the Conflict in Liberia: Policy Options for an Emerging Democracy and sustainable peace," the hearing will address the contribution of economic crimes to the conflict including corruption and the illicit exploitation of natural resources.
- The hearing will also discuss the correlation between the extractive industry and the fuelling of the conflict and appropriate policies aimed at reversing the unauthorized exploitation of the natural resources by individuals, groups and the government for purposes external to the national good.
- Particular emphasis will be made on predatory networks and illicit alliances between spurious foreign corporations and fighting forces in Liberia in exploiting natural resources.
- Specifically, topics will cover how economic crimes were committed, who committed those crimes, how corporations and individuals aided bad governance and promoted corruption, and how natural resources were exploited and abused.
- During the week long hearing, several local and international participants will make presentations on how the economic nature of the conflict helped to sustain and promote the conflict in Liberia.
- Presenters will include experts from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia and Global Witness.
- Also expected to make presentations are Mr. Silas Kpanan Ayoung Siakor who will speak on the Logging Sector and the Conflict; former Deputy Maritime Commissioner Tarty Teh, on the Role of the Maritime Industry in the Conflict; former National Bank of Liberia Governor David Vinton, on the Role of Banking Institution in the Crisis; and former Postal and Telecommunication Minister Mewaseh Paye-Bayee, on the Role of Communications in the commission of Economic Crime

- Pursuant to the TRC Act of 2005, the Commission is mandated to investigate gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law as well as abuses that occurred, including massacres, sexual violations, murder, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes, such as the exploitation of natural or public resources to perpetuate armed conflicts during the period January 1979 to October 14, 2003.

SRSJ Løj Says a Secured Liberia Would Attract Investors

(Heritage, Liberian Express, Public Agenda)

- The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General (SRSJ) Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj says a secure Liberia would attract investors and provide employment opportunities for Liberians.
- SRSJ Løj made this statement last Thursday at the Samuel Kanyan Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to almost 2,000 Nigerian Soldiers serving in UNMIL. She also pledged that the Mission will continue to support the Liberian Government in dealing with incidents of violence and crime.
- She emphasized that UNMIL's role was to support and assist Liberia in achieving that goal and "we must never forget that Liberia's future rests firmly in the hands of Liberians".
- The UNMIL Boss described Nigeria's contribution to Liberia as "outstanding", adding that "Nigeria led the response to end the civil war and remains committed to bringing Liberia back to peace, stability and development." She paid tribute to the heroic sacrifices made by many Nigerians who lost their lives in the cause of peace in Liberia and reminded the peacekeepers of the numerous challenges that are still ahead, stating that the Mission had to work harder to ensure that post-conflict challenges were "systematically and properly addressed".
- SRSJ Løj also underlined the support of the Nigerian contingent for the Liberia National Police (LNP) and UN Police (UNPOL) in curbing criminal activities and violent public disorders. "quite recently, the information that you have assisted in collecting while on joint field and border patrols, especially at Liberia's border with Sierra Leone is very vital to the maintenance of peace and security in both countries," the SRSJ noted.

Liberian Journalists Unite to combat Sexual Violence - Form Anti-Rape Reporters' Association

(The Informer, The Monitor)

- With the support of UNMIL Public Information Section and the Government of Liberia, a group of journalists drawn from all segments of the Liberian media are now part of a joint effort by UNMIL and the government to stamp out rape and other forms of gender based violence in the Liberian society.
- The twenty-five journalists who attended a two-day anti-rape campaign media workshop unanimously agreed to support the anti-rape campaign through the establishment of the Anti-Rape Reporters' Association. Those elected as officers were: Lawrence Fahnbulleh of the Liberian Express Newspaper, President, Sam Zota of The Monitor newspaper as Vice President, Estelle Liberty of Power FM as Secretary and Rebecca Freeman of the Liberia News Agency (LINA) as Chaplain.
- The workshop, organized by UNMIL in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development, was intended to encourage the journalists to publish and broadcast rape cases with emphasis on the criminal nature of the act and the problem this poses to the Liberian society.
- Rape remains a non-bailable first degree felony and is frequently reported in Liberia.
- UNMIL Public Information Section and Liberia's Ministry of Gender will this week extend the anti-rape campaign media workshop to northern Nimba County, targeting participants from 25 community radio stations across the country.
- It is believed that constant anti-rape campaigns in the communities will engender greater community participation which will enable community dwellers plan realistic solutions, maybe through behavioral change. It is perceived that community members will not settle rape cases and other sex-related violence outside the judicial system if they are fully aware of the danger of rape and are involved with the campaign against the act.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Star Radio *(News culled from website at 12:00pm)*

President Sirleaf meets new Ghanaian President

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has held talks in Accra with the newly elected President of Ghana, Professor John Atta Mills.
- An Executive Mansion statement said during discussions, the two Presidents pledged to strengthen existing collaboration between Liberia and Ghana.
- According to the Executive Mansion the leaders spoke of the strong historical ties between the two countries.
- They promised to work towards greater cooperation in the economic field against the backdrop of the current global crisis.
- The statement said President Sirleaf congratulated President Mills for his election and commended Ghana for contributing to Liberia's return to stability.
- President Sirleaf met the new Ghanaian President enroute to the Asian country of Qatar to attend the annual conference of the Extractive Industries Initiative.

KDA commends Pres. Sirleaf for Brown's appointment

- The Karluway Development Association based in the United States has commended President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for the appointment of Joe Gble-bo Brown as Superintendent of Maryland County.
- The association expressed the hope that under the leadership of Mr. Brown positive initiatives will be designed in restructuring the county's development needs.
- A KDA release issued said Superintendent Brown takes on the new portfolio as an outstanding developmental expert.
- The association also challenged Mr. Brown to make his administration participatory by consulting elders, traditional, opinion and religious leaders of the county.
- The U.S.-based Liberian group believes broad participation would help settle all outstanding disputes arising from land tenure land ownership in the south-eastern county.
- The group further appealed to donor government, foreign donor agencies and companies operating in the southeast to assist in the reconstruction of the River Gee Bridge.
- The bridge serves as a major link to the Port of Harper in Maryland County and the KDA believes its rehabilitation would enhance economic activities in the region.
- The Karluway Development Association pledged its support to the administration of Superintendent Brown and the development efforts of Maryland County.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Liberian Leader off to Qatar to attend confab on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for Doha, Qatar, on a two-day visit.
- The President is scheduled to address the 4th Global Conference of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to be held February 16-18 in Doha. It can be recalled that Liberia's First EITI Report was launched on February 10, 2009, and may be the subject of discussion at the Conference.
- Those scheduled to join the Liberian leader at the Conference are the Chairpersons of the LEITI, Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan; Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Dr. Eugene Shannon; and Counselor T. Negbalee Warner, Head of the LEITI Secretariat.
- During the President's absence, Internal Affairs Minister Ambulai Johnson, Chairman of the Cabinet, will coordinate the affairs of state in consultation with Vice President Joseph Boakai.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Voice of America

Friday, 13 February 2009

Teaching the Lessons of Rwanda's Genocide

By Howard Lesser
Washington, DC

In April, Rwandans will mark the 15th anniversary of a genocidal ethnic war that cost the lives of between half a million and one million people. Carl Wilkens, who ran the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Kigali, was the only American out of 257 in the country in 1994 to stay on in Rwanda after the slaughter began. His decision to help saved the lives of hundreds of children at the Gisimba orphanage and other safe havens. He says the challenges he faced on arrival at the orphanage posed moral challenges he and others had never before had to contemplate.

"The first time I came into the parking lot, there were little graves. These little ones were dying of dysentery. They didn't have enough water to drink, much less be sanitized. So I started bringing water, bringing food. One day, as I was bringing a load of water to the orphanage, I was surrounded by about 50 militia. And this thing dragged on for almost three hours. I did not know why. They did not come in while I stayed there. But eventually, we actually through radio contact got some gendarmes to come. I temporarily left, telling them I would come back," he recounted.

Wilkens couldn't find help outside the compound, since resources were hamstrung by the stiff clampdown on Kigali streets by local militia fighters. But as Wilkens relates, an answer for sparing the children came from one of the most unlikely of sources.

"That day at the government headquarters, the 'bogus' prime minister (Jean Kambanda), whom I call Kambanda because at the beginning of the genocide, they killed the legitimate prime minister in cold blood, was there in the city. And strange as it is, one of my new friends there in the office had told me: ask the prime minister for help. And it just seemed crazy. He was one of three men organizing the genocide. But for reasons I still don't know – I kind of think he maybe wanted to use the orphans for bait – but this prime minister protected. This massacre did not happen. These orphans a couple of days later were moved to another part of the city, and their lives were spared. It defies logic," he exclaimed.

Despite the unlikely reprieve from a figure who was later sentenced to a life term for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Wilkens says Jean Kambanda does not deserve a break from history for the one compassionate act toward children, when weighed against his significant genocidal offenses.

Today, after several return visits to Rwanda, Carl Wilkens and his wife Teresa formed the non-profit organization World Outside My Shoes to educate audiences around the United States about the lessons of life-or-death decision-making during a time of crisis. He tells audiences of students, army veterans, anti-genocide activists and others of his gratitude for the favorable outcome of the orphanage episode, but admits that trying to explain the moral ambiguity of the occurrence still leaves a most disturbing place in his memory.

"Students and everyone who look at this are trying to figure out who's the good guy, and who's the bad guy. And we saw so many examples during the genocide of people who were perhaps hiding someone in their home and then going out in the street and killing others. And this guy who we thought was so bad, he goes and helps us in other situations. I can't explain them, except to say that each of us has this potential. And just because we have made some terrible choices doesn't mean we're locked into that. And just

because we've made some wonderful choices doesn't protect us from perhaps one day making some terrible choices," he explained.

Sharing Rwanda experiences with audiences helps them to grasp that the large moral choices one is faced with during a genocide do not yield simple answers, says Wilkens. But he adds that a spirit of service and performing deeds that contribute to one's community can shape future behavior in ways that condition people to make the right moral choices when confronted with particularly difficult crises. Carl Wilkens praises the way that growing numbers of Americans are working tirelessly to end international conflict and to raise public consciousness about governments that single out segments of their population for extinction.

"Relative to Rwanda, it's almost like night and day. During Rwanda, there seemed to be hardly any action. Today, there's many, many more. But of course, still there's so much to go, and we seem to be moving so slowly in Darfur. I have to be optimistic because I have to believe we're moving in the right direction. And I'm seeing students. I'm seeing adults. I'm seeing legislators moving that way. But we still have so very far to go," he says.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 17 February 2009

Kibaki Calls Emergency Cabinet Meeting over Special Tribunal

By Peter Clotey
Washington, D.C

Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki has called an emergency cabinet meeting today (Tuesday) to discuss the next step forward after parliament rejected a proposed government-sponsored constitutional amendment bill to set up a local tribunal. The proposed special tribunal was to prosecute alleged perpetrators of the 2007 post-election violence that rocked Kenya. Meanwhile, a member of the coalition government demanded the resignation of both president Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga shortly after parliament unanimously rejected the bill. Kenya's post-election violence led to the loss of lives and property prompting the international community's intervention and the formation of a unity government.

Michael Tiampati is a political analyst. He tells reporter Peter Clotey that Tuesday's emergency cabinet meeting is expected to focus on the government's limited option of moving forward.

"Following the defeat or the rejecting by parliament of the proposal by government for the setting up of a local tribunal, that rejection actually threw the political scenario into some sort of disarray. And of course it had an impact on the public because in the public domain people are anxious to really figure out how and what is happening or what the so-called perpetrators of the 2008 post-election violence going to be tried," Tiampati noted.

He said most Kenyans are calling for the naming of those alleged to have been the instigators of the December 2007 post-election violence.

"Speculation is rife, especially at the grassroots level regarding the names in the mysterious envelope that is said to contain the names of five cabinet ministers. So, there is a measure of anxiety and of course there have been a clamour for the contents of the mysterious envelope to be made public. So, there is that anxiety and that urge for these names to be made public," he said.

Tiampati said the coalition government has been silent about the demand by one of its cabinet ministers for both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to resign after the rejection of the government proposed amendment.

"There has not been any sentiment from the principals that is President Kibaki and the prime minister regarding the Mutula Kilonzo (Nairobi Metropolitan Development minister) sentiments that the president and his prime minister should resign. But the question of course is that since Kilonzo himself is part of the government which was defeated in the parliament bill, I think it would have been prudent for him to have set the pace by resigning. So he has not been taken with a lot of weight because he should have resigned himself to demonstrate his displeasure or that he wasn't happy with what they are doing," Tiampati pointed out.

He said most Kenyans have lost faith in local tribunals.

"There is that feeling that local tribunals have had a very nasty history of not really delivering. So, the public have always viewed local tribunals or commissions of inquiry with a pinch of salt because we've had commissions after commissions and there have never been any tangible results. So, there is that fear that this may be that process that never gets anywhere. So Kenyans feel that there should be a departure

from that past which is really negative. And therefore they would like the process that would deliver some results and they would want to see the perpetrators of the violence kind of tried in a way that would have a semblance of justice," he said.

Meanwhile, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan recently hinted he would send the names of Kenyan politicians and businessmen accused of orchestrating the 2007 post-election violence to the International Criminal Court in The Hague after failed attempts to set up a local tribunal.

Justice Philip Waki, who headed the probe into the post-election violence, gave Kenya until March 1 to create a local tribunal. However, Kenyan MPs on last Thursday failed to pass the necessary bill. Waki reportedly handed over a sealed envelope containing the names of the accused, which is thought to include some senior ministers, to Annan. The understanding was that Annan would hand it over to the ICC should Kenya not meet the deadline.

Annan has reportedly said that he and fellow members of the Panel of Eminent African Personalities would review what actions are needed to be taken in what he described as being in line with the spirit, letter and intent of the 'Waki' probe. He also warned justice must be done in order to avoid a repeat of the violence at Kenya's next election which is expected to