

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



Guma Valley reservoir in October 2003.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, 17 July 2006

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

British, Americans Have Spoken / Exclusive	Page 3
UN To Start Troops Withdrawal in Liberia / Independent Observer	Page 4
Guma Dam 30 ft.and Rising / Awoko	Page 5
Bosnia Serbs face Genocide Trial / New Vision	Page 6

International News

Note: International press clippings are not available today due to problems with internet access.

UN Envoy Commits US\$ 1 Million Towards Liberia's Emergency ... / UNMIL	Page 7
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary (15 July) / UNMIL	Page 8
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary (14 July) / UNMIL	Pages 9-11

Exclusive
Monday, 17 July 2006

Editorial

To jail former Liberian president, warlord and Special Court indictee, the British were the first to offer prison facilities of maximum security to Charles Taylor, if convicted by the Sierra Leone Special Court backed by the United Nations to be held in The Hague, Holland.

Now States Department of USA Embassy sub office in Freetown in a June 22, news release, has affirmed its ardent support to "bring Charles Taylor to justice."

WELCOME

Charles Taylor's arrest and trial which comes as a result of years of support for democracy and diplomatic efforts by the US and other international partners and his subsequent transfer to The Hague, has received support from the USA.

JUSTICE

Taylor's trial for alleged crimes against humanity, particularly committed against the people of Sierra Leone is viewed as a right step in achieving justice and accountability, which when

British, Americans Have Spoken—

attained will contribute to stability in West Africa after decades of civil conflict.

RESOLUTION

Taylor's arrest, indictment and transfer to Europe came after the USA adopted resolution 1638 last November authorizing the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to arrest Charles Taylor and to transfer him to Sierra Leone, subsequent again on Resolution 1688 for his onward transfer to The Hague.

FIRST

The States Department news release stated that "Charles Taylor is the first African president to face crimes, against humanity. His trial will demonstrate the International Community's commitment to hold individuals responsible for their actions." The release went ahead to applaud all those who worked with them to bring Charles Taylor to justice.

Independent Observer
Monday, 17 July 2006

UN to start troops withdrawal in Liberia

UNMIL (United Nations Mission In Liberia) is to start the process of downsizing its 17,500 strong peacekeeping force in Liberia.

UN Secretary General, Kofi

Annan who was recently in Liberia said last week that the security situation there is normalising gradually and so the process of troops withdrawal should begin.

It was not however not stated when this process is to start, but what is clear is that UNMIL is half way through its two years mandate in Liberia and this can only be extended by a UN Security Council

resolution.

Liberia's next presidential and General election is 2010 and by which time the UN Mission there would have closed down.

UNMIL also provides security for the Special Court in Sierra with about 250 Mongolian troops deployment.

The mandate of the court itself runs out in 2007.

Awoko

Monday, 17 July 2006

Guma Dam 30ft and rising – Chief Engineer

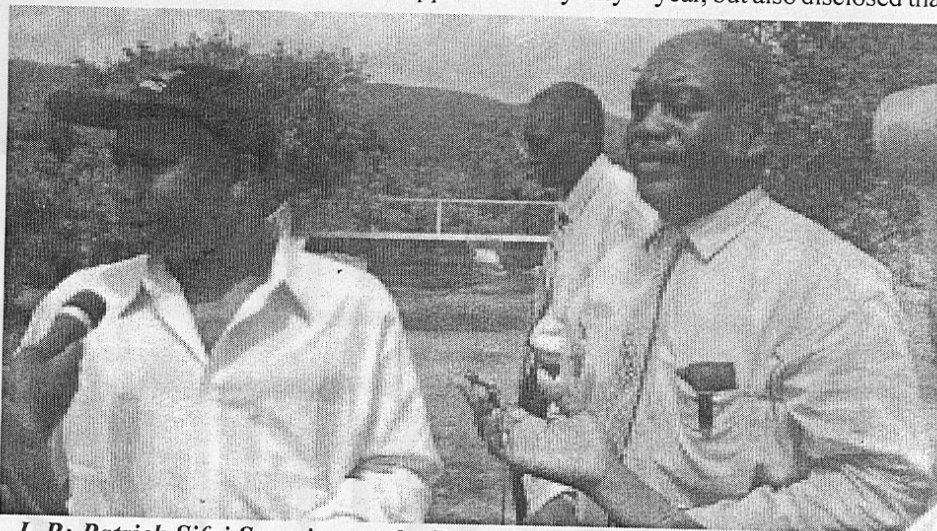
By Austin Thomas

The Chief Engineer of the Guma Valley Water Company, Raymond

visit the dam with his permission.

Mr. Awoonor Williams maintained that at no time was Guma approached by any

He admonished Freetown residents not to panic as they had enough chemicals to treat the water until next year, but also disclosed that



L-R: Patrick Sifoi Supervisor at the Dam, Chief Engineer Raymond Awoonor Williams & General Manager Darell Thompson

Awoonor Williams, yesterday in a short interview with Awoko, said the Guma dam at Mile 13 was improving considerably as the rains had been encouraging in the last few days.

Mr. Williams stated that the rationing would continue until the level of water they were expecting was attained.

On alleged reports doing the round in the city that some NGOs went on a visit to the Guma dam and came out with a report which stated that the dam would serve the city for just a week, the Chief Engineer retorted that he would want to know when these NGOs made that trip as they could only

visit the dam with his permission. Mr. Awoonor Williams maintained that at no time was Guma approached by any

He made mincemeat of newspapers' reports which speculated that Sierra Leone would soon start importing water from neighbouring Guinea, noting that, "such reports are baseless and untrue because the rains are coming heavily and the dam is fast improving...many areas are now getting water supply daily".

The Chief Engineer said the water was now clear and good for consumption and that they would continue to do all in their power to make sure the quality of their product was second to none.

the current water crisis might occur in years to come because of the rapid deforestation now taking place.

Commenting on the rumour that is going round the city that Guma is exporting water, Mr. Awoonor Williams said that it is untrue that they export water. He said they would want to know how this water is exported because if they export the water, officials at the quay would be in the better place to give the information.

Mr. Awoonor Williams concluded thus: "the only solution to our problem will be to build another dam that will be able to supply the eastern part of the city".

New Vision
Monday, 17 July 2006

Bosnian Serbs face genocide trial

Seven former Bosnian Serb officers have gone on trial at The Hague war crimes tribunal for alleged involvement in the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica. The men are pleading not guilty to a range of charges including murder, persecution and genocide.

The trial, the largest yet staged at The Hague, is one of just a handful dealing with the killing of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in the UN safe haven. The massacre is the only event from the Bosnian war classified as genocide. Five of the seven standing trial at The Hague face genocide charges, as well as crimes against humanity.

The prosecution alleges that some of the defendants were involved in the "systematic" operation to kill thousands of Bosnian Muslims and then conceal them in mass graves. Objections The trial opened in confusion when chief prosecutor Carla Del Ponte began to describe a visit to Srebrenica. "Earlier this week I was in Potocari [near Srebrenica] to mark the 11th anniversary of the Srebrenica atrocity. I stood with thousands of mourners, mostly women..." she said, before being cut off. Defence lawyers objected to her statement, complaining that it was "emotive", and judges ruled that Ms Del



Vujadin Popovic is accused of conspiring to massacre thousands

Ponte would have to wait until official opening statements before she could speak. Although the defendants have entered their pleas, opening statements in the trial are not due until after the tribunal's summer recess.

The case was adjourned until opening statements on 21 August. Correspondents say the case is one of the most important yet brought before the tribunal. Just six men have so far been convicted over the Srebrenica massacre, and only two of those on genocide charges. The two men accused of masterminding the massacre, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, remain at large.

UN Envoy commits US\$1million towards Liberia's Emergency Employment Programme

Monrovia, Liberia - In recognition of Liberia's high unemployment rate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, committed US\$1million towards the creation of employment opportunities for the country's youth as the Liberia Emergency Employment Programme (LEEP) was launched by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Monrovia yesterday.



President Johnson Sirleaf meeting young people at the launch of LEEP

Launching the LEEP, President Johnson-Sirleaf commended the Ministry of Labour and various partners for coming together to address the unemployment problem in Liberia. She urged Liberian youth to use the temporary employment opportunities provided under the programme to sharpen their skills and learn about work discipline. "We must set a good example of performance so that our partners will see that Liberia is ready to work hard and take responsibility for its own development objectives," the President said.

Special Representative Doss characterized peace building in Liberia as "jobs, jobs and jobs." Recounting the old proverb 'idle hands are the devil's workshop,' he stressed the importance of creating immediate job opportunities for young people but stressed the importance of investment, trade and the development of the private sector as the long-term solution.

The Liberia Emergency Employment Initiative is an 18-month programme aimed at creating labour-intensive job opportunities to address Liberia's high unemployment rate that currently stands at 85 per cent.

The launching ceremony was attended by senior government ministers, members of the House of Representatives, the ILO Regional Director for West Africa, and government and UN officials.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the major international media today

International Clips on West Africa

Iraq veteran recounts arrest, detention in Sierra Leone

By DAVID PORTER

Source: AP Alert – Business Date: July 14, 2006

NEW YORK_The physical toll from Michael Chemidlin's incarceration in an African jail are evident: a purplish bruise on his right arm where he received injections for malaria and an aching right shoulder from sleeping on jailhouse floors and being pulled around in handcuffs. But the mental scars may take longer to heal for the 58-year-old National Guardsman from Scotch Plains, New York, a Vietnam veteran who also served in Iraq last year.

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

Public Works Ministry Earmarks US\$43 Million for Road Repair

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Ministry of Public Works said that it needed US\$43 million for the rehabilitation and maintenance of major roads across the country, including the streets of Monrovia.

NEC Receives Six Nominations

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) said yesterday that it had received six nomination papers from would-be candidates in the Margibi County by-election representing the Unity Party, National Patriotic Party, Liberty Party and the Congress for Democratic Change and an independent candidate.
- NEC Information Officer Bobby Livingstone told journalists that a final listing of the qualified nominees would be released on 28 July

Former Foreign Minister Denies Report of Dissident Activity

- Former Foreign Minister Thomas Yaya-Nimley has described as false reports that he was training dissidents in Grand Gedeh County.
- He said that he had no intention to undermine Liberia's fledgling democracy and challenged his accusers to substantiate their claims.

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 armahji@un.org.

United Nations



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International Clips on Liberia

Fri Jul 14, 2006 8:17 AM GMT

Liberia seeks new loans to pave way to debt relief

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA (Reuters) - War-ravaged Liberia aims to clinch bridging loans with multilateral lenders to pave the way for relief on its \$3.7 billion foreign debt, authorities said on Thursday. A document drafted by Liberia's Reconstruction and Development Committee and presented to an international donors' conference in Monrovia on Thursday estimated the West African country's debts to multilateral lenders at \$1.6 billion.

07/14/2006 09:06:32

Liberian president paints gloomy picture of health sector

Monrovia_(dpa) _ Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has painted a gloomy picture of the war-battered country's health sector, press reports said Friday, with the country now having just 34 doctors, or just one per 80,000 people.

07/13/2006 20:04:22

Security Council votes to reconfigure UN force in Liberia

UNITED NATIONS, July 13, 2006 (AFP) - The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously decided to reconfigure the UN mission in Liberia by boosting its civilian police component by 125 while slashing the military contingent by the same number. The 15-member council passed a draft resolution that determined that the fragile situation in the west African country still constituted a "threat to international peace and security". The 17,318-strong United Nations Mission in Liberia currently has 1,017 police personnel, 14,595 troops and 196 military observers.

International Clips on West Africa

Delay in Key Bid to Hand Out ID Papers Ahead of Poll

Abidjan, Jul 14, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Laurent Gbagbo's party is threatening a politically sensitive registration scheme to determine who has the right to Ivorian citizenship - an issue that helped spark the almost four-year-old civil war that has divided the country. Determining who is Ivorian is a key step in the implementation of a UN peace plan to end the war and reunify a country where some 750,000 people have been displaced and three million are receiving humanitarian assistance.

07/14/2006 08:48:15

NEWS FEATURE: Ivory Coast rebels say October elections now impossible

By Joe Bavier

Abidjan_(dpa) _ A spokesman for the rebel movement that has occupied the northern half of Ivory Coast for nearly four years has said presidential elections scheduled for October are no longer possible. Speaking from the de facto rebel capital Bouake, New Forces spokesman Cisse Sindou told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa that, in light of recent problems implementing key facets of a long-delayed peace plan, time had run out for the October polls. "Technically, it's impossible," Sindou said. "I don't think it is possible to identify everybody, to give them ID cards and voter cards, and test the whole organization

Local Media – Newspapers

Dr. Brumskine's Son Arrested with Arms and Drugs

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, and The West African Pilot)

- Police in Monrovia on Thursday arrested Walter Brumskine's Jr., son of a renowned Liberian medical doctor Walter Brumskine. He was arrested in the Old Road community with one machine gun, a pistol, a pack of cocaine and other drugs along with cutlasses at his home. Police said that Philip Taylor, son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has been linked to the illegal possession of fire arms and other weapons and also risk arrest.

President Johnson-Sirleaf Says No Pledges at Donors' Conference

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, and New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has clarified that the just ended donor conference on Liberia was not meant to solicit pledges from donors but to formulate strategies that will accelerate the pace of programmes already being implemented

Deputy Police Chief Linked to Fuel Theft

(The News)

- An investigation conducted by *The News* has allegedly linked Deputy Police Director for Administration, Alfred Karley, to the misappropriation of some 2,495 gallons of gasoline worth more than US\$7,500.

Education Ministry Rescinds Decision on Results before Graduation

(The Inquirer)

- Liberia's Education Ministry has rescinded a decision to halt high school graduation ceremonies until the official results of exams administered by the West African Examinations Council are released. A statement quoted Education Minister Dr. Joseph Kortu as giving go ahead to secondary schools to carry out their graduation exercises until the ministry makes the necessary adjustments which will enforce its policy that allows official exams results before graduation.

Liberia Faces Severe Shortage of Medical Doctors

(New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf told a donor conference Wednesday that the number of medical doctors that provided health care services during Liberia's pre-war days has dropped from 400 to 34. This figure, according to the Liberian leader, translates to one doctor for every 88,000 people at the moment.

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

Governance Reform Commission Submits Draft Code to President

- The Governance Reform Commission yesterday submitted the final draft of the Code of Conduct for public servants to President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for review and consideration. The Code of Conduct is the second final draft document of public sector reform measures submitted to the President after the Anti-Corruption Policy Paper.
(Also reported on Star Radio)

Expert Advises Government on Economic Growth

- A Senior Fellow of the Center for Global Development attending the donor conference on Liberia, Steve Radelet, said that Liberia should place premium on agriculture as the means for the speedy growth of the country's economy, adding that the agricultural sector could make up for between 10 to 12 percent of the country's GDP.
(Also reported on Star Radio)

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

Liberian Journalist Wins International Award

- The executive director of Media Against AIDS, James King, has won the 2006 prestigious CNN MultiChoice African Journalism Award competition sponsored by a U.S.-based foundation. He is the second journalist from Liberia to win the award after Vinicious Hodges, now member of the House of Representatives.

President Wants State Broadcaster Impartial

- Visiting the headquarters of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) yesterday,
- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that the state-owned broadcaster must serve all Liberians regardless of political, religious or sectional interest.
(Also reported on Star Radio)

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