

**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 March 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The New Citizen
Tuesday, 17 March 2009

UN CHIEF INTERVENES

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The Friday skirmish resulted into several injuries and the subsequent burning down of a vehicle belonging to SLPP Secretary General, Jacob Jusu Saffa. Unconfirmed reports also suggest that, the Mayor was boldly prevented from entering his office by a group of SLPP youths on the grounds that the APC replace a gutted vehicle belonging to the opposition, Secretary General, Jacob Jusu Saffa. Had it not been for the timely intervention of the Police, only God knows what would have befallen the capital city as irate APC youths besieged the SLPP office to inflict mob justice on 23 SLPP supporters alleged to have ignited the whole skirmish by throwing stones on jubilant APC supporters. The police, led by Assistant Superintendent, F.U.K Daboh, succeeded in keeping at bay the desperate APC youths but failed to convince the visibly timid SLPP youths to come down from the building and be accorded police protection. The patience exhibited by the police later paid dividend when the United Nations Special Representative to Sierra

the scene and succeeded in persuading the SLPP supporters to come down the building after assuring them of both UN and Sierra Leone police protection.

Speaking to the New Citizen, one of the SLPP youths, Senesie Foray, denied the allegation that they threw stones at the Mayor and his supporters or had prevented him from entering his office yesterday.

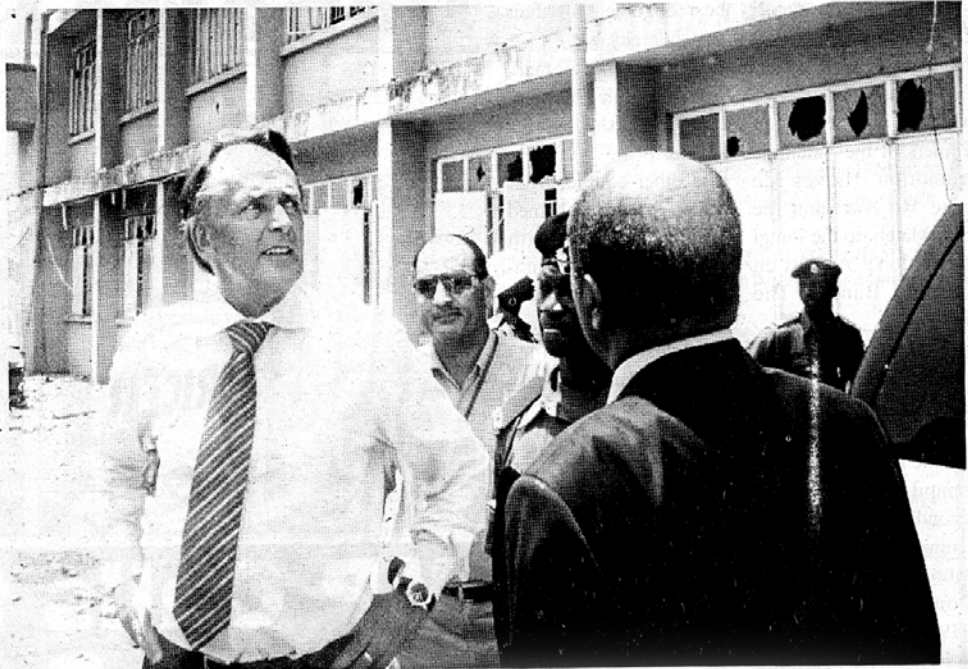
Efforts by the New Citizen to locate the Mayor were fruitless as reports suggest that His Worship; George Herbert Williams has hibernated to somewhere in Freetown in fear of his life.

As at Press Time, no official statement has been made by both the government and opposition SLPP.

Meanwhile the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, (SLAJ) in a press release condemned the action taken by the Vice President, Samuel Sam Sumana to ban both the two political party radio stations following last Friday's skirmish.

Some observers however hold the view that the two political radio stations have been responsible for sending inciting messages to supporters of both parties.

According to an agency



Standard Times
Tuesday, 17 March 2009

10 Arrested, Petrol, Arms & Ammunition discovered at SLPP office

Over ten supporters of the Sierra Leone People's Party were yesterday arrested at the Party's Head office, Wallace Johnson Street in Freetown.

The arrest came during another political upheaval that erupted between the ruling All people's Congress and the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party.

According to reports gathered, supporters of the oppositions were in the building on Friday when clashes between the two parties erupted. It is not known why they were arrested but sources say they were put under protective custody as irate youths of the All People's Congress were surrounding the building to attack those trapped in

the office building. The violence between the two political parties started on Friday after the commissioning of the fifty seven million leones, clock for the Clock Tower at Eastern Police, Central Freetown. It is not known who started the violence but independent sources revealed that provocative songs by the jubilating APC supporters annoyed the opposition who reacted the same. This situation blew out of proportion with supporters throwing stones at each other. A number of people got injured, with vehicles burnt. The volatile situation continued yesterday with the opposition office being surrounded allegedly by APC youths. The police had to use tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd in order to access to the building.

Calgary Herald
Friday, 13 March 2009

Court urges 60 years' jail for Sierra Leone war crimes



Ex- Liberian president Charles Taylor holding a Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifle. He is next up for trial in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Photograph by: Pascal Guyot, AFP/Getty Images

FREETOWN - War crimes prosecutors on Friday called for jail terms of up to 60 years against three former rebel leaders convicted for mass murders, rapes and using child soldiers in Sierra Leone's civil war.

At a public hearing of the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone, they called for Issa Sesay, 38, and Morris Kallon, 45, to be jailed for 60 years for their roles as chiefs in the United Revolutionary Front, a former rebel group.

They called for a 40-year term for another convict, 60-year-old Augustine Gbao. Judges were due to adjourn to consider their sentence for the three, who were convicted last month after pleading not guilty.

"I don't think the sentencing we are requesting is harsh," deputy prosecutor Joseph Kamara told AFP. "Take into consideration the gravity of the crime as well as the number of victims," he added.

"Thousands were murdered, hundreds raped, children enlisted into armed hostilities as well as innocent girls forced into marriage and persons amputated," he said.

"These acts in totality should attract a severe form of punishment to prevent others from doing the same."

The 1991-2001 war was one of the most brutal civil conflicts in modern history. Some 120,000 people were killed and tens of thousands mutilated by having their arms, legs, noses or ears cut off.

The current trial was the first time an international war tribunal ruled that forced marriage should be treated as a crime against humanity and attacks on peacekeepers as a war crime.

It was to be the last trial held in Freetown by the UN-backed court, which was set up in 2002. Its other outstanding trial, of Liberia's former president Charles Taylor, is being held in the Netherlands for security reasons

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
16 March 2009**

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

Newspaper Summary

No newspaper appear on the newsstand today due to the holiday (Liberia's First President, J.J. Roberts Birth Anniversary)

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

President Sirleaf Wants Speedy Implementation of World Bank Supported Programmes

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has called for the acceleration in the implementation of World Bank supported National development programmes.
- The President also appealed to the World Bank to support Liberia's road rehabilitation which she said is critical to the country's agricultural programme.
- Speaking to the visiting World Bank delegation, President Sirleaf said the agriculture programme was government's major response to the global economic crisis.
- The delegation headed by Jim Hagen also discussed Liberia's progress and challenges in qualifying for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

AFELL Says Reporting Rape Has Reduced Act

- The Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) says rape reporting is on the increase and is helping to reduce the act across the country.
- AFELL said people are now reporting to the police and other institutions unlike when rape was not taken as a serious offense.

President Sirleaf Leaves for London

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for London, England to attend a two-day meeting of African leaders.
- The meeting called by British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown will formulate a common African position in response to the current global financial crisis.
- The African position will be considered by the G-20 countries during a summit next month.

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

ALCOP Dissatisfied with Revocation of Party's License

- Opposition Politician Alhaji Kromah of the All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP) has termed as "inappropriate" the recent revocation of the party's license by the National Elections Commission.
- In an interview, Professor Kromah said the party has not been officially informed and wondered why the commission would revoke the party's license when the court's proceedings have not been exhausted.
- The ALCOP was among ten parties whose licenses were revoked by the commission last week citing constitutional violation.
