

**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:**

Thursday, 17 September 2009

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

Thursday, 17 September 2009

# More Nails On Taylor

The sponsorship of another RUF operation, 'Fiti Fata,' by Accused Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has been challenged by the Defence Team. Mr. Taylor denied that his government had a death squad headed by Former Secret Service Officer, Zigzah Marzah. The Defence Team also pointed out some inconsistencies in a Prosecution witness' testimonies about Mr. Taylor's mobile phone number. And was Former Special Security Service Director, Benjamin Yeaten more powerful than Charles Taylor's Vice President?

The ammunition used in the RUF Fiti-Fata Operation in the Sierra Leone town of Buedu came from Charles Taylor's farm, a prosecution witness alleged in his testimonies last year.

According to the witness, Fiti-Fata was an operation without specific target. The witness said the ammunition was loaded onto a pickup at Mr. Taylor's farm house in Bong County.

The Prosecution evidence also accused the Former Liberian Leader of operating a death squad commanded by one of the Secret Service Officers, Zig Zag Marzah.

A Prosecution witness claimed that Former SSS Director, Benjamin Yeaten ordered the commander of Taylor's death squad in 2002 to lead a raid on the Belle

Forest in Liberia. former president Taylor denied all these claims calling them made up lies. Mr. Taylor denied the existence of a death squad in his government.

Another Prosecution witness alleged that he was in regular communication with Mr. Taylor on the mobile phone. Mr. Taylor's mobile number is 06510547, the witness declared. To this claim, Mr. Taylor maintains denial.

Former Special Security Service Director, Benjamin Yeaten was the second most powerful person in Mr. Taylor's government, a prosecution witness told the court last year.

The witness said Mr. Taylor personally told a frontline meeting at the Executive Mansion that whatever Benjamin Yeaten said or did came from him. (Taylor)

The Prosecution witness alleged that Benjamin Yeaten was more powerful than Vice President Moses Blah.

The witness said Benjamin yeaten had a special parking space at Mr. Taylor's residence.

He said the Vice President was not allowed to park in Yeaten's space.

But Mr. Taylor denied that Former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten was the second in command during his presidency.

*Also read this story on  
[www.exclusivepress.net](http://www.exclusivepress.net)*



# Nobody Ever Transported Weapons From Taylor's Residence

Weapons were never transported from Charles Taylor's White Flower residence in Monrovia for use by rebel forces in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone today.

"Nobody ever picked up weapons from White Flower. Nobody ever picked up a single weapon there, not even Benjamin Yeaten," the accused former Liberian president said

during his testimony today.

Mr. Taylor was responding to the testimony the 33rd Prosecution Witness TFI-375, who in his June 2008 testimony said that while working with Mr. Taylor's Special Security Services (SSS) Director, Benjamin Yeaten, in Liberia, he picked up arms and ammunition on several occasions from Mr. Taylor's White

Flower residence in Monrovia. TFI-375 testified that he then transported the weapons to Sierra Leone for use by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

The witness had also testified that while in Sierra Leone in 1997, a Liberian rebel called Jungle took weapons for use by RUF rebels when he visited RUF commander, Sam

*Continued page 7*

Drugs Control Act in 2008, several drug dealers have been prosecuted and sentenced under the Act. The latest cocaine Mafiosi to appear at the Freetown Magistrate Court No. 1A presided over by Magistrate Deen Tarawallie is

The accused works for Perez Mining Company owned by convicted Steven Perez who is presently serving seven years jail term at Pademba Road Prison for the offence of accessory after  
*Continued page 7*





# **Nobody Ever Transported Weapons** **From Taylor's Residence**

*From front page*

Bockarie. The witness said Jungle told him he had picked up the weapons from Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in Liberia and in return, Mr. Bockarie had given him diamonds to take to Mr. Taylor.

In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor dismissed the witness' account as lies. "I say he is lying. He must be confused. How could I, as president of Liberia, take ammunition and give it to him?" Mr. Taylor asked. "I have nothing else to do as president but to take some ammunition like a shop boy and give it to him to take to Sierra Leone? In fact, White Flower does not exist in 1997. I moved into that building in January 1998," the accused former president said.

Mr. Taylor explained that because of the presence of Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers in Liberia at that time, it would have been impossible for anyone to transport huge loads of ammunition from Liberia to Sierra Leone in big trucks. "If ammunition is crossing from Liberia to Sierra Leone in a truck, ECOMOG must have carried it. Note that there were 18,000 ECOMOG soldiers in Liberia at this time," he said.

Mr. Taylor also denied knowing Jungle who, according to Witness TFI-375, was part of Mr. Taylor's close protection unit as well as liaison between Mr. Taylor and Mr. Bockarie. "There is no such person called Jungle in the Close Protection Unit," Mr. Taylor said. "When I needed Bockarie in 1998, I sent for him. There is no liaison like Jungle. We'll contact him by radio when we needed him," the former president added.

Witness TFI-375, in his June 2008 testimony, also said that he was part of a team that took arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor's private farm at Gbangha in 1998 and transported them to RUF commander, Superman, in Buedu. The witness testified that these weapons were used by the RUF for

"Operation Fiti Fata," an operation he said was launched to capture the diamond-rich town of Kono. Mr. Taylor today denied having any arms storage on his private farm at Gbangha.

"If any president can make his farm or residence an arms depot, then the Secret Service should not even exist," he said. Mr. Taylor also denied the witness's assertion that he had direct numbers for Mr. Taylor's cell and satellite phones while he worked with Benjamin Yeatã in Liberia. "That is the biggest lie I have ever heard. There is no cell phone number that the witness had. Even cabinet members did not have my cell phone number. It was the only protected number in Liberia," Mr. Taylor said.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. Taylor denied ever knowing the Prosecution's 21st Witness Joseph Marzah, a.k.a. "Zig Zag" Marzah, who in his testimony said he was the Chief of Operations for Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and head of the Death Squad of the Mr. Taylor's SSS that was headed by Benjamin Yeatã. Also in his testimony in 2008, Mr. Marzah said that he sat together with Mr. Taylor and feasted upon human intestines.

"I first saw Marzah in this court. I did not know him personally. I did not recognize him when I first saw him in court," Mr. Taylor said. Mr. Taylor also disputed the assertion that Mr. Marzah was a Colonel in the SSS. Describing Mr. Marzah today, Mr. Taylor said that "Marzah ends up being an Orderly to Yeatã. A Colonel? I doubt that very much. An Orderly who cannot even read and write? I doubt that very much."

Mr. Taylor is responding to allegations that he provided support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition and that he helped plan RUF operations, thus helping the rebels commit atrocities against the government and people of Sierra Leone. He has denied all the allegations against him.



## Concord Times

Thursday, 17 September 2009

# Taylor denies ordering UN hostages' release

By Alpha Sesay

Ex-Liberia president Charles Taylor has refuted prosecution witness testimony that he instructed Special Court convicted former RUF commander, Issa Sesay, to release the United Nations hostages. Taylor said he only conveyed the message of the international community that the peacekeepers had to be released unconditionally.

"It's a lie. I did not command him. The only thing I did on the UN situation was to tell Issa Sesay to release those people and to release them unconditionally," Taylor said. "I told him the concerns of the international community and that if they did not release the peacekeepers, the international community will come down on them like a hammer."

Mr. Taylor was responding to the testimony of a prosecution witness, whose identity was not released because he testified under protective measures. The greater details of the witness's testimony were discussed in private session. The witness had testified that when the UN peacekeepers were abducted by Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in 2000, Taylor called RUF commander Issa Sesay to Liberia and commanded him to release the peacekeepers.

According to the witness, Taylor told Sesay to "release the UN hostages



Charles Taylor

so I'll tell the world that whatever I say happens."

Taylor, however, dismissed the testimony as "total foolishness."

In May 2000, RUF rebels held over 500 UN peacekeepers hostage, an action which eventually led to the arrest of the rebel group's leader, Foday Sankoh. Issa Sesay, who was the RUF's most senior commander after Sankoh's arrest, later facilitated the release of the peacekeepers.

Witnesses have testified that Taylor influenced the RUF to release the peacekeepers, but the former warlord said he had the blessing of West African leaders and the United Nations to negotiate the release of the hostages.

The hostages were eventually taken to Liberia where they were released and then handed over to the UN.

In his testimony today, Taylor explained that when he called Sesay to negotiate the release of the peacekeepers, the interim RUF leader wanted their leader Foday Sankoh to be released as a condition for the release the peacekeepers. According to Taylor, he told Sesay that "we cannot tie Sankoh's release to the release of the hostages."

"The whole issue was not my decision. I conveyed to him the message of the international community," Taylor said.

The ex-Liberia president also refuted the witness's assertion that after the release of the hostages, Sesay returned to Sierra Leone with arms and ammunition, given to him by Taylor for use by the RUF. He dismissed the allegation as "a blatant lie."

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.



## Total News

Thursday, 17 September 2009

### Nobody Ever Transported Weapons from Taylor's White Flower Residence to RUF Rebels in Sierra Leone – Taylor Says

**By Alpha Sesay**

Weapons were never transported from Charles Taylor's White Flower residence in Monrovia for use by rebel forces in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone today.

"Nobody ever picked up weapons from White Flower.

Nobody ever picked up a single weapon there, not even Benjamin Yeaten," the accused former Liberian president said during his testimony today.

Mr. Taylor was responding to the testimony the 33rd Prosecution Witness TFI-375, who in his June 2008 testimony said that while working with Mr. Taylor's Special Security Services (SSS)

Director, Benjamin Yeaten, in Liberia, he picked up arms and ammunition on several occasions from Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in Monrovia. TFI-375 testified that he then transported the weapons to Sierra Leone for use by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

The witness had also testified that while in Sierra Leone in 1997, a Liberian rebel called Jungle took weapons for use by RUF rebels when he visited RUF commander, Sam Bockarie. The witness said Jungle told him he had picked up the weapons from Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in Liberia and in return, Mr. Bockarie

had given him diamonds to take to Mr. Taylor.

In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor dismissed the witness' account as lies.

"I say he is lying. He must be confused. How could I, as president of Liberia, take ammunition and give it to him?" Mr. Taylor asked. "I have nothing else to do as president but to take some ammunition like a shop boy and give it to him to take to Sierra Leone? In fact White Flower does not exist in 1997. I moved to that building in January 1998," the accused former president said.

Mr. Taylor explained that because of the presence of Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group



(ECOMOG) peacekeepers in Liberia at that time, it would have been impossible for anyone to transport huge loads of ammunition from Liberia to Sierra Leone in big trucks.

"If ammunition is crossing from Liberia to Sierra Leone in a truck, ECOMOG must have carried it. Note that there were 18,000 ECOMOG soldiers in Liberia at this time," he said.

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"There is no such person called Jungle in the Close Protection Unit," Mr. Taylor said.

"When I needed Bockarie in 1998, I sent for him. There is no liaison like Jungle. We'll contact him by radio when we needed him," the former president added.

Witness TFI-375, in his June 2008 testimony, also said that he was part of a team that took arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor's private farm at Gbangha in 1998 and transported them to RUF commander, Superman, in Buedu.

The witness testified that these weapons were used by the RUF for "Operation Fiti Fata," an operation he said was launched to capture the diamond-rich town of Kono. Mr. Taylor today denied having any arms storage on his private farm at Gbangha. "If any president can make



Charles Taylor

his farm or residence an arms depot, then the Secret Service should not even exist," he said.

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"That is the biggest lie I have ever heard.

There is no cell phone number that the witness had. Even cabinet members did not have my cell phone number. It was the only protected number in Liberia," Mr. Taylor said.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. Taylor denied ever knowing the Prosecution's 21st Witness Joseph Marzah, a.k.a. "Zig Zag" Marzah, who in his testimony said he was the Chief of Operations for Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and head of the Death Squad of the Mr. Taylor's SSS that was headed by Benjamin Yeatan. Also in his testimony in 2008, Mr.

Marzah said that he sat together with Mr. Taylor and feasted upon human intestines.

"I first saw Marzah in this court. I did not know him personally. I did not recognize him when I first saw him in court," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also disputed the assertion that Mr. Marzah was a Colonel in the SSS. Describing Mr. Marzah today, Mr. Taylor said that "Marzah ends up being an Orderly to Yeatan A. Colonel. I doubt that very much... an Orderly who cannot even read and write. I doubt that very much."

Mr. Taylor is responding to allegations that he provided support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition and that he helped plan RUF operations, thus helping the rebels commit atrocities against the government and people of Sierra Leone. He has denied all the allegations against him.



**Report From The Hague**

*The Defence Team of Mr. Charles Taylor continues to challenge the testimonies of some Prosecution Insider Witnesses. A Senior Radio Operator of the Sierra Leone Rebel Group, the RUF, Perry Kamara told the Special Court in 2008 that the major war plans for the capture of important diamond towns as well as Freetown came from Mr. Charles Taylor. The Prosecution witness further alleged that Mr. Taylor sent Juju man to inspire the RUF on the battle field. And why were seriously wounded RUF Fighters treated in Liberia John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust...*

“Stop attacking the Government Forces in the towns, use guerrilla tactics in the bushes, try to gain weapons from the government,” this was the military advice Charles Taylor gave to Former RUF Leader Foday Sankoh, according to Perry Kamara, a prosecution witness.

Mr. Kamara claimed that Mr. Taylor and Foday Sankoh were in constant radio communication in 1994 planning the war in Sierra Leone.

The witness said Mr. Taylor was called Butterfly and Mr. Sankoh’s radio code was Toyota.

Mr. Taylor denied and said he lost contact with Mr. Sankoh in 1992.

The Former RUF Radio Operator further alleged that the plan to prepare an airfield in Buedu and re-organize the mining sector in the rebel territory came from Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Kamara, the Prosecution witness said the RUF used civilians day and night for the construction of the airfield.

The Former Liberian Leader said he did not offer any advice to the RUF about mining or the construction of an airfield.

The witness also alleged that the RUF destroyed a commercial bank in the Sierra Leonean Town of Koidu and took some looted money to Mr. Taylor in Liberia.

He said Sam Bockarie gave the money to Charles Taylor for the purchase of arms.

In his testimonies last year, Mr. Kamara said the big plan for the capture of several towns and the invasion of Freetown came from Mr. Taylor.

The witness also claimed that Mr. Taylor sent a Juju man from Liberia to inspire the RUF Fighters for the various attacks. Mr. Taylor said he’s not a believer of juju.

Meanwhile, Mr. Charles Taylor appears to be a happy man this week waiving and throwing kisses at his 22-year old daughter sitting in the courtroom listening to him.

Charl Taylor told the BBC World Service Trust that she has confidence in her father’s ability to speak his mind about allegations against him. But Miss Taylor said she was afraid of the out come of the trial. According to her the case against her father is a political one.



## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

### Report from The Hague

The sponsorship of another RUF operation, Fiti Fata, by Accused Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has been challenged by the Defence Team. Mr. Taylor denied that his government had a death squad headed by Former Secret Service Officer, Zigzah Marzah. The Defence Team also pointed out some inconsistencies in a Prosecution witness' testimonies about Mr. Taylor's mobile phone number. And was Former Special Security Service Director, Benjamin Yeaten more powerful than Charles Taylor's Vice President? Joseph Cheeseman reports.

CHEESEMAN: The ammunition used in the RUF Fiti-Fata Operation in the Sierra Leone town of Buedu came from Charles Taylor's farm, a prosecution witness alleged in his testimonies last year. According to the witness, Fiti-Fata was an operation without specific target. The witness said the ammunition was loaded onto a pickup at Mr. Taylor's farm house in Bong County. Mr. Taylor expressed surprise at the testimonies.

TAYLOR: There's no way that where I'm sleeping on my farm, somebody's going to load bombs in the building. Like, the Secret Service can't keep it in their houses, they're going to bring it in my quarters and keep it? I mean, this is bizarre.

CHEESEMAN: The Prosecution evidence also accused the Former Liberian Leader of operating a death squad commanded by one of the Secret Service Officers, Zig Zag Marzah. A Prosecution witness claimed that former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten ordered the commander of Taylor's death squad in 2002 to lead a raid on the Belle Forest in Liberia. The witness said the raid, code named Operation No Monkey, was to flush out Liberian dissidents and their collaborators.

Mr. Taylor denied the existence of a death squad in his government.

TAYLOR: Totally, totally, totally false. There was no such unit that I knew of called Death Squad in Liberia, no.

COURTENAY GRIFFITHS: Are you sure about this?

TAYLOR: I'm very sure.

GRIFFITHS: "Q. What was this Operation No Monkey? A. I was there when Benjamin Yeaten instructed Zigzag Marzah and other fighters to go to Belle Forest and destabilise all the civilians that were in the forest, and anybody who refused should be killed and no monkey should even stand in front of them." Wasn't there a special group within the SSS led by Marzah?

TAYLOR: No, I don't know of Marzah leading any special group.

CHEESEMAN: Another Prosecution witness alleged that he was in regular communication with Mr. Taylor on the mobile phone.

Mr. Taylor's mobile number is 06510547, the witness declared. The former Liberian president laughed at the testimonies.



TAYLOR: That's the biggest lie I've ever heard. There is no such cell phone of mine that this witness, whoever he is, would have of mine, because when it comes to my cellular phone, even cabinet ministers, not all of them had my cell phone number.

GRIFFITHS: Now, can you remember the number of your cell phone, Mr Taylor?

TAYLOR: Liberia is 06, and the number is 557777.

CHEESEMAN: Former Special Security Service Director Benjamin Yeaten was the second most powerful person in Mr. Taylor's government, a prosecution witness told the court last year. The witness said Mr. Taylor personally told a frontline meeting at the Executive Mansion that whatever Benjamin Yeaten said or did came from him. (Taylor)

The Prosecution witness alleged that Benjamin Yeaten was more powerful than Vice President Moses Blah.

The witness said Benjamin Yeaten had a special parking space at Mr. Taylor's residence. He said the Vice President was not allowed to park in Yeaten's space.

But Mr. Taylor denied that Former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten was the second in command during his presidency.



United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 September 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN Security Council extends peacekeeping mission in Liberia**

LAGOS, Sept. 16 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations (UN) Security Council extended the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia by one year, the News Agency of Nigeria said on Wednesday. The extension followed the unanimous adoption of a resolution on the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the report said. The 15-member council authorized the peacekeeping force on Tuesday to assist Liberia with the 2011 general presidential and legislative election, and facilitate access to remote areas in the country, it said. The council also endorsed UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recommendation to implement the third state of UNMIL's drawdown, which he made known in his recent report on the mission. In the report, Ban proposed the council to authorize the continuation of UNMIL's troop strength of nearly 8,000 until after the 2011 polls, following which the drawdown resumes at an accelerated pace.

#### **Indian External Affairs Minister Off to Liberia**

New Delhi, Sep 16 (IANS) Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor has left for a six-day visit to the West African states of Liberia and Ghana, officials said here Wednesday. Tharoor, who left New Delhi Tuesday night, will first reach Liberia. He would be the first Indian minister to visit Liberia in almost 40 years after then foreign minister Swaran Singh in 1971. Liberia has a unique history among African countries, having been founded in 1847 by escaped slaves from the US. In 2005, it elected Africa's first woman president in Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who took over office in 2006. While bilateral visits have been rare, diplomatic relations go back a long way with both being members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). In recent years, India is known in Liberia for sending the United Nations' first female police contingent to maintain law and order, as well as provide security to President Sirleaf. Tharoor will be meeting with the top leadership in Liberia, including the president and several cabinet ministers, a ministry statement said.

#### **Documentary Showcases Women's Role in Ending Liberia's Civil War**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa>

Liberian women from all religious and academic backgrounds played a courageous role to end the country's bloody civil war which lasted from 1989 to 2003. Wearing only white T-shirts, the women took on the warlords, including Charles Taylor and nonviolently brought peace to Liberia. Well, their strength and perseverance in stopping the country's brutal civil war is the subject of a documentary – "Pray the Devil Back to Hell". It is showing in over 200 cities around the world, and tonight (Wednesday) the documentary will be shown at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Abigail Disney, producer of "Pray the Devil Back to Hell", said the documentary is being shown at this time because it embodies the message of the UN International Day of Peace observed every year on September 21. "It seems really important to mark the UN International Day of Peace because the film is really about all the aspects of fighting for peace.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Sierra Leone**

## **Investigators arrive to trace the cause of the of Sierra Rutile dredge disaster**

<http://uafin.com> - International investigators on Monday arrived at the mines to investigate the cause of the accident involving the company's dredge in Mobimbi, Mokañji South of Sierra Leone. This was disclosed by the Public Relations Officer, Alusine Jalloh in an interview on a cell phone line with COCORIOKO Newspaper Limited, though he did not reveal where these international investigators are from. He informed the paper that government investigators, led by the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Abdul Ignosi Koroma, and senior officers from the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations have also visited the mines to also trace the actual cause of the damage of the plant. Mr. Jalloh said the investigation are just reaching at the mines and may not disclosed their report so soon as they have so many areas of concern to look into adding that even the builders of the dredge are also at the mining site as part of the examining team into the cause of the incident.

## **Guinea**

### ***Guinea starts registration of voters abroad***

Conakry, Guinea (PANA, September 16, 2009) - The 15-day voters' registration exercise for Guineans a broad following the 2010 presidential and parliamentary elections, began Monday in the US, 11 African and four European countries, official sources revealed. According to the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the exercise will be held in Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Angola, Gabon and Morocco. It will also cover Guineans in Germany, Belgium, France, Spain and the Netherlands. The registration system is biometrical, which makes it compulsory for the physical presence of all those wishing to register. PANA recalls that in April and July, some 4,144,416 voters, out of a population of 5,274,233 of eligible voters, were registered nationwide, for the 2010 polls which will cost about US\$ 39 million. The contact group - which comprises the United Nations, European Union, African Union and Economic Community of West African States - has been at the forefront of efforts to return to civilian rule.

## **Ivory Coast**

### **Ivorian election body confirms delay in poll lists**

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's election commission confirmed on Tuesday that it had missed a deadline to publish provisional voter lists and political parties warned that the top cocoa grower may miss another poll date. The publication of the lists, initially delayed in late August, is a crucial step towards holding a November 29 poll aimed at ending a seven-year crisis, during which rebels have controlled the north and the country's economy has stagnated. "(The election commission) is working with the prime minister's office and other organisations to ensure the provisional lists will be published in the coming days," the commission said in a statement as Tuesday's deadline passed. However, officials told Reuters on Monday the election lists would not be ready for publication for about two weeks due to a combination of the lack of funds and logistical problems in the West African country.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **President Sirleaf Overturns Information Minister's Order**

(New Democrat, The Analyst, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has put a halt to the implementation of the instruction for printing houses not to print Newspapers that are not registered with Government.
- The President halted the instruction during a meeting with Information Ministry officials, senior media practitioners and the Press Union of Liberia.



- The meeting was called by the Executive amidst confusion and resistance to the instruction for printing houses not to print newspapers that are not registered.
- According to PUL officials, the President said Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh had no right to enforce a law from the PRC regime expressing surprise that the law has not been repealed.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information and the Press Union have resolved to work together to repeal those decrees that may not work in the interest of freedom of expression in the country.

### **Indian External Affairs Minister Arrives Today**

(The Informer, Heritage, Daily Observer, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, Liberian Express, New Democrat, The News, The Analyst)

- The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor at the head of an 18-member delegation is due in the country today.
- The visit which is first in 40 years by a Senior Official of the Government of India to Liberia.
- While in the country, Dr. Tharoor will hold talks with Liberian Government officials including President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The talks are aimed at fostering and further cementing the already cordial ties between the two countries.
- Several agreements may be reached during the stay of Dr. Tharoor and his delegation.

### **UN Security Council Extends UNMIL's Mandate**

(The News, Heritage)

- The United Nations Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia by one year.
- The extension followed the unanimous adoption of a resolution on the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).
- The 15-member council authorized the peacekeeping force on Tuesday to assist the country with the 2011 General and Presidential and facilitate access to remote areas in the country.
- The council also endorsed UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recommendation to implement the third stage of UNMIL's drawdown contained in his recent report on the mission.
- In the report, Secretary General Ban proposed the continuation of UNMIL's troop strength of nearly 8,000 until after the 2011 polls following which the drawdown will resume at an accelerated pace.

### **Police Are Paralyzed... All Vehicles Down**

(New Democrat)

- The operations of the Liberia National Police are gradually being paralyzed as dozens of the entity's fleet of vehicles are now grounded.
- Currently, 26 of the 28 BMW's donated by the Italian Government are down thereby forcing the Police to suspend its highway patrol.
- Police sources say the vehicles are remote controlled and are not allowed to cover certain mileage as was done during the highway patrols.
- The source said it will cost the force at least US\$1000.00 to repair each of the vehicles.

### **Chinese Military Delegation, Defense Authority Hold Discussion**

(The Inquirer)

- A six-man Chinese delegation headed by the Commander of the Shejiazhuang Mechanized Infantry Academy (MIA), Major General Liu Haigang on Monday to paid a courtesy visit at the National Defense in Monrovia.
- Defense Minister, Brownie Samukai stated that the visit was in continuation of the military relationship that has existed between the two countries.
- Minister Brownie Samukai also disclosed that the visit was also intended to enhance training opportunities for the Armed Forces of Liberia.

## **Threshold Bill Takes U-Turn...Two Counties Run to Supreme Court**

(Daily Observer)

- Two counties have announced their resolve to take legal action against the Senate relative to its recent passage of the Threshold Bill and its subsequent submission to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for signature.
- Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties said the passage of the bill with a proviso that no county should have not less than two seats was a complete violation of the Liberian Constitution.
- With the passage of the latest bill, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties are among the smaller counties in the country whose seats in the Lower House of the National Legislature had been reduced to one each.

## **UNMIL Provides Engineering Training for 60 AFL Soldiers**

(Daily Observer, The Informer)

- UNMIL Bangladeshi Engineering contingent assigned in Gbarnga, Bong County has began the training of the First Engineering Company of the Armed Forces of Liberia assigned at the Camp Tubman Military Barracks in that county.
- Speaking at the formal launch of the training, UNMIL Chief Force Engineer, Col Azmal Kabir said the exercise is part of a transitional process in which UNMIL is expected to take charge of the security sector reform programme including the training of the AFL.
- He disclosed that the Americans, who have been involved with the training of the AFL, will be ending their service by December this year.

## **79 Nigerian Signal Unit Arrive To Serve UNMIL**

(The Informer, The Analyst)

- About 79 radio communication technicians of the Nigerian Army Signal (NISIG) have arrived in Monrovia to take over communication service delivery for UNMIL Forces.
- The new batch of NISIG 10 takes over from NISIG 9 which has been rendering the services for the last six months.
- A release issued in Monrovia said the total number expected in a rotation to be completed on Monday 21 September 2009 is 160 technicians.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

## **President Sirleaf Overturns Information Minister's Order**

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

## **House Passes Drug Law...Violator Faces up to Sixty years in Prison**

- The House of Representatives has passed into law an Act seeking tougher penalties against drug trafficking and abuse.
- The new law makes drug trafficking and abuse a non-billable offence and mandates that anyone convicted of the crime be jailed for not less than twenty-five years.
- The law also provides for the seizure of properties of any convicted drug trafficker and abuser.
- Prior to the passage of the new law, several lawmakers stressed that it would address the weaknesses in the drug law of the Country.

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

## **Public Works, World Bank Tour Development Projects**

- Speaking during a tour of World Bank funded projects in the Country, Public Works Minister, Samuel Woods says patience is required to achieve quality infrastructural development in Liberia.
- Minister Woods assured that government will continue to support development and growth as a means of enhancing economic development.
- Also speaking during the tour, the World Bank Country Director, Ishac Diwan praised the partnership between his entity and Liberia assuring that the Bank will deliver more support for the Country's reconstruction process.



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

### **President Sirleaf Signs Proclamation To Extend Regular Session of National Legislature**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has signed a proclamation extending the regular session of the National Legislature.
- The proclamation signed on Tuesday extends the session of the Senate to September 25 while the Legislative session was extended to September 28.
- According to an Executive Mansion statement, the extension is intended to allow the lawmakers discuss matters of national interest.

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

### **Bomi Lawmaker wants Security Deployed at Guthrie Rubber Plantation**

- Bomi County Senator Richard Devine has called for the deployment of security officers at the Guthrie Rubber Plantation.
- In an interview, Senator Divine said the presence of security officers would help to address the increasing wave of illicit tapping and insecurity at the plantation.
- Reports say since the departure of the interim management team illegal tappers have taken over the Guthrie Rubber Plantation.
- Meanwhile, the Bomi County lawmaker wants government to mandate the Sime Darby Company to immediately take over the plantation. The Company recently signed a concession agreement with government to take over and expand the Plantation.

### **Construction Work at Standstill at Voinjama Youth Centre**

- Construction work at the Voinjama Youth Centre in Lofa County has come to a standstill as tension is said to be brewing over the use of construction tools and materials provided by the UN Refugee Agency.
- The centre's Chairperson, Pandora Williams and the youth leader Wubor Bazzle are accusing each other of misusing the materials worth about US\$2,000.
- Meanwhile, residents of the Voinjama have also expressed concern over the use of nearly US\$7,000 from the County development funds for the project.
- The residents want government to investigate the use of the money and the project materials.

### **Gbarnga back in Darkness 35 Days after Independence Celebration**

- Report from Bong County says the City of Gbarnga has been in darkness for the past four days, barely thirty-five days after the July 26 Celebrations.
- The latest situation contradicts earlier assurance by the county authorities and the Legislative Caucus that electricity would have been maintained in Gbarnga.
- Several citizens say if nothing was done to restore electricity to the city, the wires could be stolen.

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