

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



Top of the waterfall at Charlotte

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:

Friday, 17 September 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Issa Sesay's 'War Don Don' Out On September 29

Cohen Discusses The Power of Film In A Documentary covering Sierra Leone war trials to air September 29 on HBO2

By Abigail B. Lind, CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

In an unusual tactic for a war documentary, the first minutes of "War Don Don" mix shocking archival footage and interviews with attractive courtroom photography and colorful scenes of Sierra Leone playing over an upbeat music track. Though it would be going too far to suggest that director Rebecca Richman Cohen HLS '07 aestheticizes tragedy, one thing is immediately clear: CSPAN this is not. "War Don Don" covers the trial of Issa Sesay, the commander of the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone's civil war, which ended in 2002. Sesay was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the United Nations' Special Court for Sierra Leone. The film presents the arguments made by the prosecution and defense, along with background about the civil war—which claimed 75,000 lives—and how the people of Sierra Leone continue to cope with the trauma and material damage to their country. Although the film was made for HBO2, where it will air on September 29, Cohen intends it for African viewers as well, and has organized screenings in Freetown and other parts of West Africa. "It was important to us to reach out to both audiences," Cohen explains. "[In Freetown,] I was taken aback by people's reactions. There was a lot of laughter throughout the film."

One such moment occurred when an investigator from Sierra Leone explains in an interview that the money being spent on the courts will go back to the developed countries that are funding them. "There were a lot of moments I thought were funny or ironic in ways that a Western audience wouldn't understand," she added.

Although the film gives equal time to the arguments of Sesay's prosecution and

certainly agree that the practice could be made better. I think the prosecution might say that as well. I think both prosecution and defense think that holding leaders accountable for their crimes is really important. The question is the way in which we do it, and the way we might be able to improve it. I don't believe anyone thinks this is a perfect process."

However, Cohen says that the film is meant to help audiences understand the civil war and the trial and come to their own conclusions.

"I don't think there's one takeaway," she says. "The intention was to present different sides in a balanced way, as they would want to be represented. The purpose was to promote debate. Issa's family screened the film, and he said it was very nice and he congratulated me on the effort. We made a film that both a convicted war criminal thought was accurate and important, and people on the prosecution have come out to support it and speak on our panels."

Although law school may seem like an unconventional path to professional filmmaking, Cohen believes that it gives her a unique perspective on the medium and her subject matter.

She had pursued film before attending Harvard, including working as an assistant editor on Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." At the law school, she worked to get hands-on experience that would be conducive to filmmaking. "I went out into the world looking for experience, rather than doing film specifically," she reflects on her early career. Yet Cohen finds that documentary was the most appropriate medium to record the Sesay trial. "Law review articles, magazines, and news reports are all important," she says, "but documentaries tell stories and can engage much broader audiences."

All too frequently, people write off what's happening in Africa as something very foreign and distant to us, and look at

Joseph Kamara To Follow Tejan-Cole

The Anti corruption commission wishes to inform the general public that the former Deputy prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara has been appointed by President Ernest Bai Koroma as the new commissioner of the ACC.

Parliament has approved Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara's appointment on Tuesday 14th September 2010 and has started full operations at the commission. "I will continue the good work my

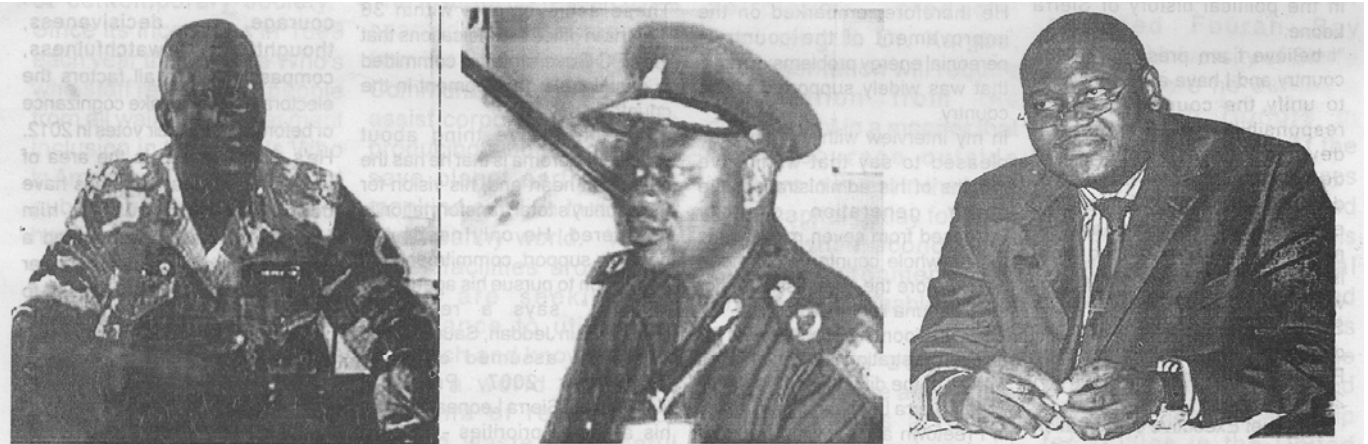
predecessor started. In that spirit, I am kindly appealing to all Sierra Leoneans to come together and join the ACC in the fight," says Mr. Kamara.

Mr. Joseph Kamara holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in 1989 and was called to the Bar in 1990.



Torchlight

Friday, 17 September 2010



Yirra, Munu, Josy Get President's Blessings

See Page 4



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PRESS REPORT

**PRESIDENT KOROMA ADMINISTERS OATH OF OFFICE TO
NEW CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, INSPECTOR GENERAL
OF POLICE, AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSIONER**

President Ernest Bai Koroma today administered the oath of office to the new Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), Major General Robert Yirra Koroma, the new Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Mr. Francis Allieu Munu, and the new Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), Mr. Joseph Kamara, in that order.

At short, formal, and separate ceremonies at State House, the Head of State told the new appointees, who had already got parliamentary approval after the presidential nomination, that they were taking over the helm of affairs of very crucial institutions at a very crucial moment in the history of the country.

To the Chief of Defence Staff, the President said, "You have come in at a time when the transformation process of the military is on-going. You have the responsibility to ensure that the military works within the framework of the democratization process, supporting democracy and protecting the country's territorial integrity... As we are developing a peace-time army, you have to ensure professionalism, as we participate in peace-keeping operations with international standards." The Commander-In-Chief told his CDS that within the military, the process of right-sizing would continue and the continuous motivation of personnel should be sustained, even as he enjoined him to ensure that the military becomes more relevant to our society by participating in developmental activities like agriculture and engineering: "with your training, background and experience, I know you will live up to the task."

To the Inspector General of Police, President Koroma said, "You are taking over a challenging responsibility, especially so when there's a great need for the police force to continue the process of transforming itself and improving its

image. We know the process of making it a professional force has started, but there's still a lot of room for improvement. You have the constitutional responsibility to maintain law and order; and by virtue of your force enforcing the law, you are the government out there, and your effectiveness is very crucial to the development of this country. You are therefore expected to be at the forefront of transforming this country... With the background and experience you have acquired, I believe you will live up to expectations."

To the ACC Commissioner, the Head of State said, "As a government, we are very clear on the fact that corruption is a cancer in our society; that is why we have taken the stance that has never been taken by any other government in this country. Our position has been robust, and we have put in place one of the toughest anti-corruption laws in Africa, even as we have ensured that the process is given complete and total independence... It is now your responsibility to continue with the process... There are challenges and difficulties, but I assure you that my government is still committed in the fight against corruption until it is minimized to the barest level... With your background and exposure, I am confident you will live up to the people's expectations."

Each of the three appointees gave assurance to execute their duties to the best of their abilities after swearing on the Bible.

The Chief of Defence Staff was officially introduced to the President by Minister of Defence Paolo Conteh, while the Inspector General of Police was introduced by Vice President Sam Sumana, and the ACC Commissioner by Secretary to the President E.B. Osho-Coker. These courtesies were followed by a general ceremony occasioning the formal decoration of the new Chief of Defence Staff in the presence of forces chiefs, family members, and government officials.

Awoko

Thursday, 16 September 2010



Joseph Kamara upon his approval in parliament

Parliament endorses IG Munu and others

By Poindexter Sama

Parliament yesterday, approved among others, the Inspector General of Police, Chief of Defence Staff, the Commissioner Anti Corruption Commission and the Director General of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Francis Alieu Munu was approved as the Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police, Major General Robert Yira Koroma as Chief of Defence Staff of the

Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, Mr. Joseph F. Kamara as the Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission and Mr. Joseph Gbanagbom Hallowell as the Director General of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. They were approved along with other individuals which include Mustapha B. Abdulai as Board Member of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority, Mr. Alphonzo A. Manley,

Board Member of the National Youth Commission, Mr. Abu Wahab; Board Member SIERRATEL, Mr. Mohamed Sowa; Board Member of National Asset and Property Commission, Ms. Harriette K. Sillah; Representative of Women in the National Youth Commission and Mr. Kabba Franklyn Dumbuya; Representative of the Disabled in the National Youth Commission.

The appointments were made by the President of Republic of Sierra Leone Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma and the appointees were examined by the Parliamentary Committee on Appointment prior to their being approved by the House of Parliament.

In retrospect, Mr. Francis Munu the newly appointed Inspector General of Police was formerly an Assistant Inspector General in charge of Crime Services. The newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier General Robert Yira Koroma was the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

The former Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Mr. Joseph F. Kamara is now the Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission, and Joseph Gbanagbom Hallowell is the newly appointed Director General of the SLBC. The Majority Leader in Parliament Hon. S.B.B Dumbuya encouraged the nominees to be productive in their respective positions, and maintain the interest of the people in their day to day administration.

Hon. Eric Komba Koedoyoma of the SLPP said that the nominees should count themselves lucky for the appointments and urged them to serve in their respective capacities diligently; complemented by periodic reports of their stewardship.



Parliament Approves New Service Chiefs Page 6



For di People
Thursday, 16 September 2010

Parliament Approves Police, ACC, SLBC Heads And 4 Others

PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY approved Francis Munu as the new Inspector General of Police; Brigadier Robert Y Koroma as Chief of Defense Staff; and eight others for various positions.

- Mr Joseph F Kamara as Anti Corruption Commissioner; Mr Elvis Gbanabom Hallowell as Director General of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation; Mr Mustapha B Abdulai as Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority; Mr Abdul Wahab Wann as Board Member, SIERRATEL; Mr Alphonso A Manley as Member (youth representative), National Youth Commission; Mr Mohamed Sowa Turay as Member, National Assets & Government Property Commission; Mr Kabba F Bangura as Member (disabled representative), National Youth Commission; and Ms Harriet Turay as Member (women representative), National youth Commission.

Leader of the House and of Government Business, Hon SBB Dumbuya, who is also Chairman of the Appointments Committee, in his presentation to Parliament of the 10 appointees said the Committee adhered strictly to its set standards.

"The nominees were interviewed on pertinent issues relating to their educational background and experience, declared assets, track records in public office, tax obligation and their vision for a nationally productive tenure."

He said the nominees were adjudged to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and are recommended to the House for approval.

That's exactly what the House did - tumbling out with praise for the nominees like coals from a sack, beginning with Hon Eric Koedoyoma, who seconded the motion for

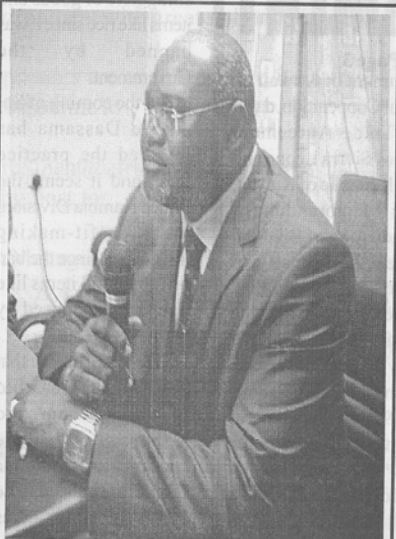
the nominees' approval.

The common thread across all their contributions was for the nominees to work for Sierra Leone and forget about political party affiliation, as the country is yearning for positive results. Of especial note was the concern for the Police and Army bosses to protect the integrity of the country and to make Sierra Leone a safer country.

Deputy Speaker Hon Chukuma Johnson in his congratulatory remarks to the 10 new appointees wished them well and said Sierra Leone expects a lot from them, so they should deliver all their best as they go



MUNU: taking oath of total loyalty to state

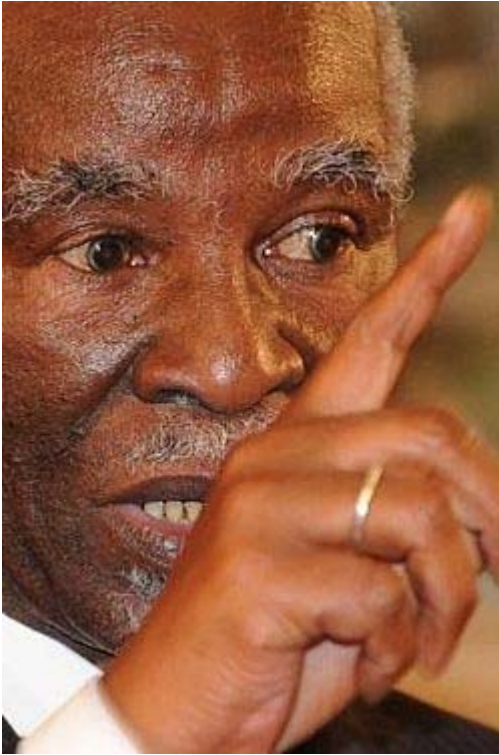


KOROMA: new ACC boss after Tejan-Cole

News Time (South Africa)
Friday, 17 September 2010

Mbeki To Testify At Charles Taylor Trial?

By Siyabonga Ntshingila :



The chief counsel for former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, who is on trial for war crimes at The Hague, is in the country to try and persuade ex-President Mbeki to testify at the trial.

Courtenay Griffiths said that he is in the country to interview Mbeki as well as weapons makers in the country.

He told the Associated press :” It is suggested by the prosecution that Mr Taylor did not step down voluntarily as president of Liberia - he was forced out of office by, among others, Thabo Mbeki”.

Griffiths said Mbeki could repudiate the prosecution’s case that Taylor was forced to step down as Liberian president. His testimony could also lend credibility to Taylor as a witness.

Griffiths said the decision to testify would left entirely to Mbeki saying :” I would not subject the former president of South Africa to indignity of being subpoenaed to give evidence in the criminal trial. As far as I am concerned if at the end of the day Mr Mbeki decides that he doesn't want to, that's the end of the story”.

Griffiths said that he will also seek to establish the truth of prosecution claims that Taylor brought blood diamonds with him to the country to help broker an arms deal.

Eyewitness News (South Africa)
Friday, 17 September 2010

Mbeki could be questioned in the Charles Taylor trial

The chief legal counsel for Charles Taylor reportedly wants former president Thabo Mbeki to give evidence at the war-crimes trial of the former Liberian leader.

Courtenay Griffiths told the Associated Press during a visit to Johannesburg that he wants to interview Mbeki and weapons makers in South Africa.

Griffiths reportedly said Taylor never resigned from office but that he was forced out by Mbeki among others.

Taylor is currently standing trial at The Hague on war-crimes charges, where allegations of trade in blood diamonds have surfaced. Griffiths said some of the stones in question were used to broker an arms deal in South Africa.

Associated Press

Thursday, 16 September 2010

Charles Taylor's lawyer wants evidence from Mbeki

By ERIC NAKI (AP) – 18 hours ago

JOHANNESBURG — Charles Taylor's chief lawyer said Thursday he wants former South African President Thabo Mbeki to give evidence at the war-crimes trial of the former Liberian leader.

Courtenay Griffiths, Taylor's chief counsel at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Netherlands, told The Associated Press during a visit to Johannesburg that he wants to interview Mbeki and weapons makers in South Africa. He said he seeks details on Taylor's 2003 resignation and details on arms deals that Taylor may have made.

"It is suggested by the prosecution that Mr. Taylor did not step down voluntarily as president of Liberia — he was forced out of office by, among others, Thabo Mbeki," Griffiths said. "Mr. Taylor flatly denies that he was put under any pressure to step down."

Griffiths said Mbeki's evidence may support Taylor's credibility. He said the prosecution suggested that Taylor lied to the court about his resignation and the defense wants to prove that wrong.

Griffiths said he has asked Mbeki for a meeting.

But Mbeki's spokesman Mukoni Ratshitanga said the office has not received a request.

"We only learned about his wish to meet Mr. Mbeki in the media yesterday," he said.

Griffiths said he would not force Mbeki, who held the presidency from 1999 to 2008, to give evidence.

"I would not subject the former president of South Africa to indignity of being subpoenaed to give evidence in the criminal trial," he said. "As far as I am concerned if at the end of the day Mr. Mbeki decides that he doesn't want to, that's the end of the story."

He also wants to interview members of a committee that dealt with arms sales about the prosecution's suggestion that Taylor brought "blood diamonds" with him on a trip to South Africa in 1997, shortly after his inauguration. The prosecution believes some of the stones were used to broker an arms deal in South Africa.

"I think the then-justice minister who was on the committee has now declared there was not such a deal, which of course assists us as those who defend Mr. Taylor," Griffiths said.

Taylor has denied involvement in the diamond trade.

In August, supermodel Naomi Campbell told the court Taylor gave her several diamonds during that 1997 visit to South Africa.

Taylor said he is innocent of 11 war-crimes charges linked to allegations he supported rebels during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002 with an estimated 100,000 dead.

Africa News.com
Friday, 17 September 2010

Charles Taylor's chief lawyer visits SA

The chief lawyer of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor at the crimes trial is visiting South Africa, a defense team spokesperson said on Thursday.



Courtenay Griffiths is in Johannesburg but gave no further details but sources say, Griffiths had expressed interest in meeting officials around Africa, possibly to testify at Taylor's Netherlands-based trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor claimed to be innocent to 11 war-crimes charges linked to allegations that he supported rebels during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002 with an estimated 100 000 dead.

In August, supermodel Naomi Campbell told the court Taylor gave her “dirty stones” in South Africa in 1997. Taylor has denied involvement in the diamond trade.

The Harvard Crimson
Tuesday, 14 September 2010

Cohen Discusses The Power of Film

Documentary covering Sierra Leone war trials to air September 29 on HBO2

By Abigail B. Lind, CRIMSON STAFF WRITER
Published: Tuesday, September 14, 2010

In an unusual tactic for a war documentary, the first minutes of “War Don Don” mix shocking archival footage and interviews with attractive courtroom photography and colorful scenes of Sierra Leone playing over an upbeat music track. Though it would be going too far to suggest that director Rebecca Richman Cohen HLS ’07 aestheticizes tragedy, one thing is immediately clear: CSPAN this is not.

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Although the film was made for HBO2, where it will air on September 29, Cohen intends it for African viewers as well, and has organized screenings in Freetown and other parts of West Africa. “It was important to us to reach out to both audiences,” Cohen explains. “[In Freetown,] I was taken aback by people’s reactions. There was a lot of laughter throughout the film.”

One such moment occurred when an investigator from Sierra Leone explains in an interview that the money being spent on the courts will go back to the developed countries that are funding them. “There were a lot of moments I thought were funny or ironic in ways that a Western audience wouldn’t understand,” she added.

Although the film gives equal time to the arguments of Sesay’s prosecution and defense, the attorneys for the latter tended to focus on the proceedings themselves in interviews. Before Cohen made “War Don Don,” she worked as a legal intern on the defense team of Alex Tamba Brima, one of Sesay’s fellow commanders.

Expressing sympathy for the defense’s arguments, she says, “I certainly agree that the practice could be made better. I think the prosecution might say that as well. I think both prosecution and defense think that holding leaders accountable for their crimes is really important. The question is the way in which we do it, and the way we might be able to improve it. I don’t believe anyone thinks this is a perfect process.”

However, Cohen says that the film is meant to help audiences understand the civil war and the trial and come to their own conclusions. “I don’t think there’s one takeaway,” she says. “The intention was to present different sides in a balanced

way, as they would want to be represented. The purpose was to promote debate. Issa's family screened the film, and he said it was very nice and he congratulated me on the effort. We made a film that both a convicted war criminal thought was accurate and important, and people on the prosecution have come out to support it and speak on our panels."

Although law school may seem like an unconventional path to professional filmmaking, Cohen believes that it gives her a unique perspective on the medium and her subject matter. She had pursued film before attending Harvard, including working as an assistant editor on Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." At the law school, she worked to get hands-on experience that would be conducive to filmmaking. "I went out into the world looking for experience, rather than doing film specifically," she reflects on her early career.

Yet Cohen finds that documentary was the most appropriate medium to record the Sesay trial. "Law review articles, magazines, and news reports are all important," she says, "but documentaries tell stories and can engage much broader audiences. All too frequently, people write off what's happening in Africa as something very foreign and distant to us, and look at people who have participated in wars as being subhuman or demonic or something very different from what we know. But when you look closely, people look very human, and when you introduce that as a story in which people can understand the motivations, you have a chance at engaging people and addressing the root causes of why terrible crimes happen."

—Staff writer Abigail B. Lind can be reached at alind@fas.harvard.edu.

United Nations Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 September 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

Liberia welcomes UN Invitation on Biodiversity Celebration

[National Chronicle]

- Liberia has welcomed a UN invitation to celebrate “International Year of Biodiversity”.
- The release from the Ministry of Information said the country was glad in joining the rest of the world to highlight the importance of biodiversity, mainly in the tourism sector .
- The Ministry said the observance is under the theme “ Tourism and Biodiversity “ .
- In Liberia, the observance will take place on the Providence Island where messages will be sent and education done on the importance of biodiversity.

Civil Society Group Recommends to UN

- Two civil society groups under the banner “Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy In Liberia “ have presented several recommendations for Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) to be presented to the UN General Assembly by Government .
- A spokesperson of the group said the recommendations are focused on issues of maternal health , water, sanitation as well as hygiene.
- The group’s recommendations also include family and social problems facing the country and measure are contained in achieving the MDGs .
- The association also wants government increase the budget of water, sanitation and hygiene during the next fiscal year.
- In response, Deputy Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Dorbor Jallah said government is working to ensure that all aspects of the MDGs are achieved in line with the UN regulation.
[Also reported by ELBC , Sky ,Veritas]

State Witness Confirms South African’s Death

[National Chronicle]

- The 5th state’s witness in the murder case involving two Chinese, Meng Wang and Li Ma, has told the court that after the crime was committed at the residence of the victim on Randall Street, he and other police officers arrived at the scene.
- He said they saw what seems to be the helpless body of the victim lying in a pool of blood with multiple wounds.
- He said primary investigation was done, photograph taken and the victim was later taken to the John F. Kennedy Hospital where he was confirmed dead by doctors.
- He told the court that the defendants were arrested while caring the laptop belonging to the victim to sell.
- According to him, the defendants who were arrested with the aid of UN Police Officers also had in their possession a clock, cigarette lighter, digital camera and a pair of socks .
- Officer Daramy noted that the two Chinese agreed to knowing each other since 2008 while in China .
- The two Chinese are on trial for allegedly killing a South African, Wesley Craig .

Local News on Liberian issues

Gang Rapists Convicted

[New Republic]

- The 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Kakata, Margibi County has convicted two men for gang rapping a 15-year old girl.

- According to reports, the men committed the act in Camp-Two, Harbel, Margibi County .
- The verdict was brought down by Judge Mardea Tarr-Chenoweth .
- The court said the men carried out the act after intoxicating their victim.
- Judge Tarr-Chenoweth said perpetrators also inflicted serious wounds on their victim .

37-year Old Man Arrested With Firearm

[New Republic]

- A 37-year Old Man has been arrested with a single barrel gun.
- Mathew Johnson was arrested by police after a tip-off by citizens in the town of Gwekpolorsu, Margibi County while at a feast .
- Johnson had reportedly threatened people with his gun if anyone danced with the girl who accompanied him at the ceremony.
- He has denied threatening anyone but admitted carrying the gun at the ceremony.

NYMOTE Intensifies Civic Campaign

[Daily Observer]

- The National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NYMOTE) has intensified its civic and voters' education, targeting several schools and communities in Montserrado County .
- NYMOTE said the campaign was specially designed to educate new voters for the upcoming 2011 elections .
- The group said the campaign targeted 15 schools .
- The group also wants the involvement of other youth groups and civil society organizations in the elections awareness campaign ..

Vice President Boakai Welcomes Danish Investments in Seaport

[The Informer]

- Vice President Joseph Boakai says Liberians have had a long association with Danish companies and know the quality of work they are capable of doing.
- "We have confidence in you because we know that we cannot expect anything less than the best from you," Vice President Boakai told a group of Danish investors.
- He observed that Liberia, emerging from a devastating civil conflict, is in dire need of investors who will put in place a system that will speed up the country's reconstruction programme.
- He spoke Monday when the Danish investors accompanied by Liberia's Consul General in Denmark, Mr. Carl Chr. Ostergaard paid a courtesy call on him at his Capitol Building office.
- They briefed the Vice President about their desire to invest in the country's port sector.

Senate Passes Act to Establish Commercial Court

[Front Page Africa]

- The Senate Tuesday passed into law a proposed Act to establish a commercial court in Liberia.
- The decision followed a report by its Judicial Committee.
- The Commercial Court is to try all debt or commercial transactions amounting to at least US\$15,000.
- Senate presiding officer Senator Daniel Naatehn of Gbarpolu County said the court will provide speedy resolution of commercial dispute.

House Passes Amendment Bill for LICPA

[Front Page Africa]

- A Bill seeking to amend the Act creating the Liberia Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA) has been passed into law by the House of Representatives.
- The passage of the bill followed a report by the House joint Committee on Finance and Judiciary.
- The House Finance Committee said the Bill is intended to repeal the 1933 Act of the LICPA.
- The Committee's co-chairman, Representative Dickson Yarsiah of Gbarpolu County said the Act will serve as a framework to monitor and regulate the practices of accountants in Liberia.
- He said the Act also ensures the employment of qualified Liberian accountants.

Liberia, Germany Sign Financial Cooperation Agreement

[Heritage, National Chronicle]

- The Governments of Liberia and the Federal Republic of Germany Monday, 13 September 2010 signed a Financial Cooperation Agreement for Germany to provide financial assistance towards phase three of Liberia's Reintegration and Reconstruction Programme.

- According to a Foreign Ministry release, Foreign Minister Olubanke King Akerele signed on behalf of the Liberian Government while Mr. Herbert Staubt, Head of Mission, signed on behalf of his government.
- Under the agreement, Germany will provide €15 million grant for the Liberian Reintegration and Reconstruction Programme phase three, aimed at strengthening cordial and bilateral relations through financial cooperation in the spirit of partnership between the two countries.

“Liberia on the Verge of Making History” Says Deputy Information Minister

[Heritage, The News]

- Deputy Information Minister Norris Tweah says Liberia is on the verge of making history in West Africa, with the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill.
- Minister Tweah made the declaration Tuesday at the World Bank-Liberia Office in Monrovia during a videoconference held for Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- The Deputy Information Minister said the passage of the FOI Bill is one of the primary policies the Liberian Government is portraying towards democracy.
- He said the FOI Bill has enormous values in the function of the state, and as such, there is no doubt that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will sign the Bill to be finally passed into law.
- The videoconference, which drew lessons from international experience, was aimed at examining the readiness and the implementation of the FOI Bill when finally passed into laws in the three countries.

Government Resumes Demolition Exercise

[Heritage, The Informer, The Inquirer]

- The National Zoning Office at the Public Works Ministry says it would this week continue its demolition exercise along the Mesurado waterfront.
- According to the National Zoning Officer of Liberia, the exercise will target all illegal structures that have prevented some principal streets from extending.
- Mr. Elijah Karnley said the exercise will affect several outlets in the waterside area including Gurley Street, Coleman Hill and the Ramsey building.
- He said the view held by some politicians that the demolition exercise was anti-developmental was not true.
- Mr. Karnley however clarified the current initiative is geared at re-organizing the City of Monrovia and its environs.

Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

LEC Workers Union Accuses Management of Unfair Labor Practices

- Workers of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) have complained of marginalization and unfair labor practices by their management.
 - The Spokesman of the Liberia Electrical and Energy Workers Union alleged they are being paid little salary with no incentives.
 - Venejor Jah also said they are not aware of major decision being reached to run the entity.
 - He made reference to agreements that are currently being signed by the LEC.
 - Mr. Jah said it is necessary for them to be part of any deal the LEC signs so that their welfare and other benefits are ensured .
 - When contacted, the new Chief Executive Officer of the corporation declined to comment on the allegation but said LEC is doing all it can to seek the welfare of its employees .
- [Also reported by ELBC , SKY FM and Truth]

Monrovia Bible College’s Grace Period Extended

- The National Commission on Higher Education has given the Monrovia Bible College additional weeks to comply with its mandate or risk closure.
 - The commission, weeks ago instructed the college to refund fees it allegedly collected from students on false pretence .
 - The Director General of the Commission ,Dr. Marcus Slewon did not state when the closure takes effect but said the college is yet to comply with its mandate.
 - He stressed that the commission has the right to shutdown any institution that is not operating in line with government’s regulation .
- [Also reported by ELBC , SKY FM ,Veritas and Truth]

65 New Mass Graves Discovered

- The Liberia Massacre Survival Association (LMSA) has reported a discovery of 65 new graves in five counties .
- The Chairman of the association ,Peterson Sonyeh identified the counties as Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Gedeh and Nimba .
- He said the graves were discovered following tipoff by communities .
- He said the graves are different from the 200 mass burial sites identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia .
- According to Mr. Sonyeh, the group also came across some of the mass graves mentioned in the TRC's report but were not recorded in its findings.
- He said most of those buried in the additional 65 graves are those who sought refuge in nearby towns and may have been killed by fighting forces.
- Mr. Sonyeh said the objective of the association is to continue from where the TRC stop in identifying mass graves .

[Also reported by Veritas, ELBC , SKY FM and Truth]

Government Resumes Demolition Exercise

[Also reported by Veritas and ELBC and Truth FM]

Concerned Citizen Donates Free Educational Supply

- A resident of Montserrado District number 10 has presented a consignment of school materials to several schools in the district.
- Madam Bessey Cole said the donation is valued at L\$25,000 and is intended to buttress parents who are struggling to support their children in school.
- According to her the donation of pens, pencils and copybooks were made available to nine schools.
- She has also promised to underwrite the WAEC fees of 9th grade candidates of the Marve Sonie School in Clara Town .
- [Also reported by ELBC , SKY FM and Truth]

Senate Passes Act to Establish Commercial Court

[Also reported by ELBC , Sky ,Veritas and Truth]

Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 09:45 am)

Bropleh Cries His Own Cry

- Former Liberia Telecommunication Authority Chairman Albert Bropleh is expected to today take the witness stand on his own behalf at the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in Bomi County.
- The LTA former boss is accused of stealing over US\$700,000 from the revenue of the Liberian Government.
- Prosecutors have since rested evidence in the economic sabotage case having produced six witnesses and a number of documentary evidences. [Also reported by ELBC and Truth]

Liberia, Germany Sign Financial Cooperation Agreement

. [Also reported by ELBC, Sky and Truth]

House Passes Amendment Bill for LICPA

[Also reported by ELBC]

ActionAid Releases Hunger Report Card

- The International Charity Organization ActionAid Tuesday launched the Hunger Free Score Card of 2010 as part of its Hunger Free Food Crises report covering 51 countries .
- The organization says the report is intended to stimulate the actions of government and people in the fight against hunger .
- ActionAid-Liberia Country Director Korto Williams said the program is launched in collaboration with governments and nongovernmental institutions to determine why people are unable to meet their full potential in Life .
- Madam Williams said Liberia is recorded at 80 while Ghana is put at number five ,the best recorded country.
- The hunger report concentrates on developing countries with Brazil at number one, leaving the Democratic Republic of Congo at number 20.
- [Also reported by ELBC , Sky and Truth]

Truth FM (News monitored today at 10:00 am)

Ex-TRC Boss Wants Tribunal to Ensure Justice

[Also reported by Sky FM, ELBC and Truth FM]

Liberia Improves Protection of Ozone

- The Focal Person of the Ozone Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) says Liberia is making progress in eliminating a major chemical that damages the ozone layer .
- Ed Nebleh said the country is also in compliance with the UN protocol to stop and eliminate dangerous chemicals across the country.
- He said it is important to stop dangerous chemicals entering Liberia because they have the potential of affecting the environment and its people .
- He said the destruction of the ozone layer leads to skin diseases and the spread of other dangerous illnesses.
- According to him his unit will this Thursday join the rest of the world to celebrate “International Day of Ozone Layer “.
- Mr. Nebleh said government has improved measures in tracking down people who are attempting to smuggle dangerous substances into Liberia. [Also reported by ELBC , Sky and Veritas]

Civil Society Group Recommends to UN

- Two civil society groups under the banner “Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy In Liberia “ have presented several recommendations for Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) to be presented to the UN General Assembly by Government .
 - A spokesperson of the group said the recommendations are focused on issues of maternal health , water, sanitation as well as hygiene.
 - The group’s recommendations also include family and social problems facing the country and measure are contained in achieving the MDGs .
 - The association also wants government increase the budget of water, sanitation and hygiene during the next fiscal year .
 - In response, Deputy Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Dorbor Jallah said government is working to ensure that all aspects of the MDGs are achieved in line with the UN regulation.
- [Also reported by ELBC , Sky ,Veritas]

Old Government Hospital Again in Flames

- The Old Government Hospital on Ashmun Street in Monrovia was on Tuesday again gutted by fire leaving several properties damaged and many homeless .
 - Although the cause of the fire was not established but witnesses believe that it was caused by candle.
 - Many of the victims are calling for aid.
- [Also reported Sky]

Street Peddlers Match to Capitol in Release of Colleagues

- Several street peddlers under the banner “Valued Boys of Liberia” Tuesday matched to the National Legislature demanding the release of some of their colleagues who were arrested by the Liberia National Police (LNP).
 - The “Valued Boys “said their colleagues were arrested illegally and that the police were selective in executing their raid.
 - They told lawmakers that they are willing to leave the streets if government creates conducive environment for them to relocate.
 - Grand Kru Senator Blamo Wesseh later intervened and secured the release of the arrested street sellers and their confiscated goods.
 - He told the”Valued Boys “ that the police were operating in the limit of their mandate , calling on the boys to be law abiding in expressing their grievances .
- [Also reported by ELBC , Sky and Veritas]

Man ,25 Cleared of Rape

- A 35-year old man has been acquitted of the charge of rape following at least 15 months of detention.
- Mobutu Kamara was indicted and arrested in June 2009.
- Trial Jurors after careful consideration of prosecution’s evidence found Moputu not guilty on grounds of insufficient evidence.

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia

UN looks ahead to peacekeepers leaving Liberia **The Associated**

The Security Council is extending the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Liberia for a year but calling for plans to transfer responsibility for security to government authorities. A resolution adopted unanimously by the council on Wednesday endorsed Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recommendation that the conduct of free, fair and peaceful presidential and legislative elections next year be "a core benchmark" for further reductions in the U.N. force. When the council authorized the U.N. force in 2003 after a peace deal ended back-to-back civil wars, it said 15,000 troops were needed. The size of the force has been reduced three times in recent years and now stands at fewer than 8,000 peacekeepers.

Liberia

UNT dean will train journalists in Liberia **<http://blogs.star-telegram.com>**

Dr. Mitchell Land, interim dean of the University of North Texas Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism, will travel to the Republic of Liberia to train journalists. The Liberian journalists will be covering the African nation's general election in 2011. Land was recruited by the U.S. Department of State. Liberians will elect a president and fill seats in the House of Representatives and half of the seats in the Senate on Oct. 11, 2011. DJ African Aura Mining: Liberia Government Grants MDA On Putu Project
www.tradingmarkets.com African Aura Mining Inc. (AAAM.LN), a listed exploration and development company focused on iron ore and gold in sub-Saharan Africa, announced Wednesday that the Government of Liberia has granted a Mineral Development Agreement or MDA for the Putu iron ore project.

Severstal Agrees With Government on \$2.5 Billion Liberian Iron Development **www.bloomberg.com**

O Severstal, Russia's largest steelmaker, agreed to a 25-year plan to develop the Putu iron ore mine with the government of Liberia in West Africa, with investment in the project expected to reach \$2.5 billion. A feasibility study will be completed in September 2012, Severstal said in a statement today. Investment will be partly funded through loans, spokesman Sergey Loktionov said by phone. Severstal, which has a 61.5 percent stake, plans to produce 20 million metric tons of iron ore a year at the site, he said. London-traded African Aura Mining Inc. holds 38.5 percent. "Given that the global market is experiencing an iron ore shortage, this can be a very profitable venture for Severstal," UralSib Financial Corp. analyst Dmitry Smolin said in Moscow. "Africa could become one of the major players in the iron ore market within three to five years." Severstal's billionaire Chief Executive Officer Alexei Mordashov said in June the Russian steelmaker was interested in expanding in African mining. The company in May bought 16.5 percent of Core Mining Ltd., which has licenses to untapped iron ore deposits in Congo and Gabon, and yesterday raised its stake in Crew Gold Corp., operating in Guinea, to 93.4 percent.

Liberians shun condom use at first sex, survey shows **APA**

A Liberia Demographic Housing Survey (LDHS) has shown that condom use at first sex is rare in Liberia, APA learns here Tuesday. The survey, according to Dr. Ivan Camanor, Executive Director of Liberia's National Aids Commission, shows that only 6% among young people aged 15-24 years use condom during their first sexual intercourse. Dr. Camanor told reporters in Monrovia on Monday that the National HIV/Aids Strategic Framework II for 2010-2014 also reveals that only 14% of women who reported having had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12

months used a condom. The document reveals that causal links affecting the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country are not known.

Bangladesh eyes shared-farming in west Africa

Reuters

Bangladesh said on Wednesday it was in talks with respective governments for cultivating rice in four West African countries on fifty-fifty share contracts. "The authorities in Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Liberia have expressed their interests in our proposals to produce rice there," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes told a news conference. Bangladesh made the proposals separately to those governments for expansion of farming in unutilised arable lands, Quayes said on his return from a visit to the African countries. The countries have huge unused cultivable lands, which Bangladesh thinks could boost food productions, he said. "If we are allowed to cultivate their unused arable lands, we can bring benefits for Bangladesh and the respective partner countries employing our farmers there," Quayes said.

Guinea

Guinea election body set to decide on poll

Reuters

Guinea's election commission will decide on Wednesday whether to go ahead with a presidential run-off election on September 19, a member of the body said, as the two candidates rowed over whether the vote should be postponed. Skirmishes between supporters of the political rivals and turmoil within the electoral body have increased the chance of a delay to the vote, which is meant to complete a transition to civilian rule in the junta-led West African bauxite exporter. "We will decide in this meeting whether to maintain or delay the (poll) date," Fomba Kourouma, a member of the election commission, said of a meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Analysts have said a successful election in Guinea, seen as a lynchpin of stability in a region scarred by three recent civil wars, is key to billions of dollars in planned mining investments and could draw a line under decades of authoritarian rule since its independence from France in 1958.

Guinea military ruler Konate 'committed' to election

www.bbc.co.uk

Guinea's military ruler Gen Sekouba Konate has said he is committed to holding an election following calls for Sunday's run-off to be postponed. Gen Konate is to meet the two candidates in the presidential vote later. He is then expected to announce whether the poll will go ahead as planned. The preparations have been thrown into doubt by violence, sparked by the fraud conviction of two senior election officials. The first round was seen as Guinea's first democratic vote since independence in 1958, raising hopes of an end to military and authoritarian rule in the mineral-rich country. The BBC's Alhassan Sillah, who is in the capital, Conakry, says it is difficult to see how the elections can be held on Sunday, as a lot of logistical work still has to be done, such as transporting election materials to remote areas. The head of the Independent National Electoral Commission (Ceni), Ben Sekou Sylla - who was one of those sentenced to a year in jail - died on Tuesday after an unspecified long illness. Our reporter says Gen Konate is expected to make a broadcast to the nation on Wednesday night.

EU sends observer team to inland Guinea ahead of presidential runoff

APA

A European long-term election observer team has left the Guinean capital for the country's inland prefectures to supervise the conduct of the 19 September presidential runoff. The ten EU observers who left Monday will stay in the prefectures of Boke, Coyah, Forecariah in Lower Guinea and in Siguiri and Kissidougou in Upper Guinea. Nine other EU long-term observers are already deployed in the Guinean capital as well as in Labe, Kankan, and N'Nzérékoré. Another EU short-term observation team with about 36 officials arrived Sunday in Conakry. They will receive training in the Guinean electoral process before heading to the inland provinces. During the first round, the EU had deployed some ten field observers in Guinea.

Guinea army promises to support elected president

AFP

Guinea's interim junta leader General Sekouba Konate said Wednesday the army would give its full support to the next president, days ahead of elections that have been marred by violence. "The army will be at the disposal of the one who is elected," Konate said to soldiers at a camp in the capital Conakry and interim Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore, after a weekend of electoral violence left one dead and 50 injured. On September 19 former prime minister Cellou Dalein Diallo and veteran opposition leader Alpha Conde are due to go head-to-head in the presidential

election run-off. Diallo and Alpha Conde respectively won 43.69 percent and 18.25 percent of the votes in the first round, according to official results. Konate insisted on the neutrality of the army, which he said was "there to defend territorial integrity and defend civilians". "The army has no ethnicity", he said, "the military family is apolitical".

Ivory Coast

UNOCI will help IEC meet remaining electoral challenges, says Y.J. Choi African Press Organization

UNOCI will help IEC meet remaining electoral challenges, says Y.J. Choi. "We came to express our solid support to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) with regard to accomplishing the main remaining tasks leading to the holding of the elections as scheduled," the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi said in Abidjan, on Tuesday. Speaking at the end of a working session with the IEC Chairman, Youssouf Bakayoko, and his colleagues, Mr. Choi told the press that they had discussed nine major challenges, from the distribution of identity and voters cards, and security provisions to the training of 66,000 election agents. In this regard, Mr. Choi urged the IEC to establish, as quickly as possible, a counting centre for election results. « It is a sensitive issue which should be resolved in advance, » he added. Turning to security provisions for the elections, the Special Representative said that each party should take the initiative at its level. "UNOCI, for its part, » he stressed, "is going to accompany the Ivorian security forces ».

Ivory Coast to Process All of Its Cashew Nuts Locally in Next 10-15 Years www.bloomberg.com

Ivory Coast, the world's second largest producer of cashew nuts, plans to develop all its annual production locally within the next 10 to 15 years, according to N'Guessan Koffi Rodrigues, national director of perennial crops. "We're developing a national strategy to increase local processing of cashew nuts," he said in an interview today in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Ivory Coast produces about 350,000 metric tons of the nuts a year, of which about 98 percent are shipped to India and Vietnam for processing, he said. The remainder are processed locally and exported to Europe and the U.S., Rodrigues said. The World Bank will partly fund the strategy, he said, declining to comment on how much it will cost in total.

President confers with senior African officials www.president.ir

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday conferred with senior African officials who attended the two-day Iran-Africa panel discussion on ways to expand economic and regional cooperation. President Ahmadinejad met with Ivory Coast parliament speaker, former Malian president, and secretary general for East African Union, foreign ministers from Somali, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Togo, Kumar's minister of economy on the sidelines of the conference. President called for expansion of ties between Iran and the African states and underlined that the two sides are able to change regional as well as global equations to their benefit. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to make use of existing potentials to further bolster ties between the two sides. In these meetings, the African officials called for convergence as well as expansion of all-out cooperation between Iran and the African states. The two-day Iran-Africa panel discussion started in Tehran with the participation of heads of state and high ranking representatives from 30 African countries.

Sierra Leone

African Minerals says Shandong deal delayed Reuters

African Minerals (AMIQ.L: Quote) said a \$1.5 billion investment deal for its flagship iron ore project in Sierra Leone had been delayed due to problems getting the teams reviewing the deal to the country. The parties had expected to have definitive agreements for the deal, under which China's Shandong Iron & Steel will take a 25 percent stake in the Tonkolili mine, completed by Sept 6. "Due diligence by Shandong is progressing well, albeit somewhat slower than planned due to the logistical issues of coordinating the due diligence process between China, Europe and Sierra Leone," the company said in a statement on Wednesday. A spokesman for the company said the delay was not affecting operations at the mine and that African Minerals still expected first ore to be delivered to port ready for shipment in the last quarter of 2011. Shares in African Minerals closed on Thursday down 2 percent at 390.25 pence, valuing the business at 1.06 billion pounds.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 September 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

PPAL, UNFPA End Two-Week Marketers Workshop

[The Informer, The Inquirer]

- The Family Planning Association of Liberia now called the Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia (PPAL) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Rebuilding Basic Health Services (RBHS) have ended a two-week training of marketers in Monrovia and its environs.
- According to a release, the training was aimed at involving the marketers to provide family planning/sexual and reproductive health information to their colleagues in the various markets in order to reduce maternal and infant mortality rate.
- The release states that the two weeks training was also aimed at affording the marketers the opportunity for the knowledge acquired to share it with their colleagues in order to create awareness on the danger of teenage pregnancy in Liberia.
- The training brought together 80 marketers from eight targeted markets in Monrovia including Duala, Logan Town, Waterside, Rally Time among.

Security Officer Complete SGBV training Under Ministry of Justice and UNIFEM

[Daily Observer]

- The Ministry of Justice in collaboration with UNIFEM has ended a two-day workshop for security officers on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
- The workshop was held in Monrovia and was highly attended.
- A consultant at the Gender Ministry Fatu Daramy-Mensah said the workshop has helped improve the performance of security officers especially those assigned at border points.
- According to her the recent training is the first in a series of five scheduled to be held in Nimba , Grand Cape Mount , Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties .
- She also noted that the training was in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that is highly supportive of the protection of right's of right .
- The Office- in-Charge of UNIFEM William Summerville lauded the Gender Ministry for taking the lead in training the officers and said her office will remain supportive of women programs in Liberia .

ILO Says 34 Million Unemployed

[Daily Observer]

- At the ongoing conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Oslo, Norway, it has been noted that global financial crises have devastating consequences on employment.
- A report of ILO said 34 million persons are unemployed as a result of crises.
- The conference began Monday and is designed to fight the challenges of growth, unemployment and social cohesion.
- The conference was opened Monday by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, followed by special remarks by Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

Local News on Liberian issues

Ex-TRC Boss Wants Tribunal to Ensure Justice

[Front Page Africa, Heritage, Liberia Journal, The Inquirer, The News]

- Former TRC chairman Jerome Verdier has warned there can be no reconciliation without justice in Liberia.

- Cllr. Verdier said there was a need for justice through a criminal tribunal to ensure accountability.
- He stressed it was important for a tribunal for key perpetrators of the war to end the culture of impunity.
- The former TRC chairman spoke Monday at a consultative hearing before the House Committees on Peace and Reconciliation, and Security.
- The hearing focused on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Second Quarterly Report to the Legislature on the implementation of the TRC recommendations.
- Cllr. Verdier and other stakeholders welcomed the President's suggestions on palaver hut reconciliation and institutional reparation for victims of the war.
- Meanwhile, Ambassador Commany Wesseh says the prosecution and public sanction recommendations of the TRC Report cannot be implemented.
- According to him, the TRC acted out of its mandate to make the recommendations on prosecution and public sanction.
- At the same time, Cllr. Phillip Banks of the Law Reform Commission says the TRC recommendations on prosecution and public sanction are purely a legal issue.
- Cllr. Banks said it was a serious legal matter because of its constitutional and security implications.

Liberty Party Seeks Amendments in Election Timeline

[Front Page Africa, The News]

- The opposition Liberty Party has called for amendments in certain areas of the election timeline released by the National Elections Commission (NEC).
- The party observed the time allotted for voters' registration, political campaign and objections and appeals are far too short.
- NEC allots nearly a month for voters' registration and one month three weeks for campaign.
- But Liberty Party chairman Israel Arkinsanya argued there would be more voters compared to the 2005 elections as more people have matured and a number of people have returned home from the Diaspora.
- Mr. Arkinsanya also argued campaign has to be done across the country noting some areas would be inaccessible due to the rains and require more time.
- The Liberty party chairman cited the issue of objections and appeals coming before exhibition of provisional registration list.
- The party said it has already communicated the observations to the NEC and hopes it can be addressed to ensure a smooth process.

Plant Protection Policy Session Ends in Monrovia

[Daily Observer]

- The Agriculture Ministry in collaboration with Afri-Care Monday held a one-day stakeholders' session to review a draft plant protection policy for Liberia.
- According to the organizers, the one-day validation session intends to establish modalities for inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the policy.
- The working session also defined the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the implementation of the plant protection policy.
- Over 30 stakeholders from relevant government ministries and agencies as well as UN and private sector agricultural groups attended the session.
- Following the validation of the document, the plant protection policy would be developed and processed for passage into law.
- The African Development Bank has provided US\$1 million for the entire process of developing and implementing the national plant protection strategy.
- Liberia has not had a plant protection policy over the years, making plants vulnerable to pest invasion and other agents of destruction.

Netherlands to Fully Support Liberia's Final Debt Relief Exercise

[Heritage]

- The Netherlands has agreed to fully support Liberia's final debt relief exercise, ahead of the September 16 Paris Club meeting taking place in France.
- According to a release, the commitment was made when a three-member delegation from the Foreign Ministry of Netherlands paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf during a stopover at the International Airport in Amsterdam.
- Sunday's meeting was also attended by Planning Minister Amara Konneh and Bong County Representative Edwin Juah, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.
- Both men are part of the President's delegation to the Oslo conference.
- The Liberian leader along with other personalities attending the conference was on Sunday night guest of the Norwegian Prime Minister at a dinner at his residence in Oslo.

Ghana-Liberia Forum Donates To Institutions

[The Inquirer]

- A delegation of Ghanaian companies that took part in the Ghana-Liberia Forum at the Monrovia City Hall has donated to the Group of 77, the Children Assistance Programme (CAP) and the JFK Maternity Ward.
- The collection of Ghana-Liberia Forum participants reached the Group of 77 on Newport Street in Monrovia where the Deng Limited (Ghana) and Philips of the Netherlands donated US\$5,000 of solar equipment.
- The Earnest Chemist Company also donated assorted drugs to the institution.
- The Liberian Ambassador to Ghana, Rudolf Van Ballmoos said that the donation was to show that there is a need for their products in the country.

Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

Liberty Party Seeks Amendments in Election Timeline

[Also reported by Sky Truth FM , Veritas , ELBC]

Criminal Court “E Ordered to Proceed With Freeman’s Rape Case

- Reports say Criminal Court “E” has been mandated to proceed with the Caesar Freeman rape case.
- The reports come in the wake of the certiorari filed against a recent ruling by Judge Everlina Quaqua.
- Judge Quaqua had ruled that Cllr. Theophilus Gould could represent Caesar Freeman in the rape case despite his contract with government.
- The prosecutors earlier filed a motion to ban Cllr. Gould from representing Mr. Freeman.
- In their motion, they argued Cllr. Gould cannot prosecute and defend at the time noting that his action will constitute conflict of interest.
- The mandate is expected to be read Wednesday in Criminal Court” E “which is responsible for sexual abuse cases. *[Also reported Star , ELBC , Sky Truth]*

48-hour Campaign Highlights Liberians’ Leadership

- A group of organizations led by Liberian citizens in the United States and Africa is to launch a 48-hour campaign to highlight the leadership roles of Liberians.
- The launch will focus on science, technology and human rights and will serve as a forerunner to a twenty-year campaign to transform Africa starting with Liberia.
- It is being held under the banner” The Liberia First Coalition”.
- The organizations include Universal Human Rights International and the Ethiopian and African Human Rights, based in the United States.
- Other members of the campaign are YOUNG-Africa Incorporated Association for Visa & Civic Education, Global Opportunities Ministries, Incorporated in Africa.
- The organizers named one of the goals as preparing present and future generation of talented Liberians to emulate the examples of distinguished professionals.

Senate Finally Passes APM Agreement

- The Senate has concurred with the House of Representatives to ratify the APM Terminals agreement for the Freeport of Monrovia.
- The US\$120 million agreement relates to the public-private-partnership of the Freeport of Monrovia.
- Senate spokesman Varney Gbessay said the vote was taken Monday in camera.
- The vote comes four days after the House ratified the agreement amid a dramatic twist by the Management of the National Port Authority.
- NPA Managing Director Matilda Parker had earlier expressed concern over the agreement but later somersaulted over her position.
- Last Thursday, a panel of the House led by Representative Edwin Snowe said the agreement was fully scrutinized with several changes made.
- Representative Snowe said the agreement takes into account the plight of the workers and would also impact Liberia within twenty five years. *[Also reported by Sky FM , ELBC , Veritas and ELBC]*

Glio Clan Wants Additional District

- The Elder Council of Glio Clan in Konobo District, Grand Gedeh County has written President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf requesting the formation of a district in the county.
- The situation relates to the purported creation of the Glio-Twabo Administrative District by a 10 October 2003 act of the Legislature.
- The elders in the letter clarified at no time did they petition lawmakers to create the Glio-Twabo Administrative District.
- They also argued that 10 October 2003 fell on a Saturday, not a session day for the Legislature.
- The elders believe the Act was faked for selfish gains and challenged any member of the then Legislature or the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) to prove its legality.
- They also want the President to address the situation before it degenerates into a crisis.

Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

Contractors Take Ministry of public Works To Task

- Local contractors hired by the Public Works Ministry to construct the Golina Bridge have alleged that the ministry has failed to pay them.
- The contractors said in keeping with the contractual agreement they were to be paid every two weeks since the start of the construction in August.
- They have accused the Public Works Ministry of default in the implementation.
- Public Works Minister Kofie Woods has confirmed the contractors' claims.
- The bridge is linking Montserrado to Bomi County.
- Meanwhile citizens of Montserrado , Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties who are mainly benefiting from the bridge are calling for the speedy construction of the bridge .
- They said due to the collapse of the bridge , economic and health situations are worsening .
[Also reported by ELBC , SKY Fm and Truth]

Cabinet Mandates GC to Develop

- The Cabinet has mandated the Governance Commission (GC) to develop a 10-year strategic framework for the implementation of decentralization and local governance policy.
- The instruction comes after a special cabinet meeting held over the weekend.
- The cabinet reminded the commission that the policy is a roadmap to decentralization with specific policy guideline.
- The GC in a communication agreed with the cabinet and said the policy will contain principle of good governance, adding that the mandate will give the policy constitutional backing.
- Meanwhile the cabinet has approved three policy documents submitted by the General Services Agency (GSA) including national public building maintenance and government vehicles .
- The policy will help the GSA account and manage all of government's assets. *[Also reported by Sky , ELBC and Truth]*

Question All Concessions

- An official of the National Drug Service (NDS) has challenged young Liberians to be inquisitive of what is contained in concession agreements that are being signed into law .
- Wesley Judu said youth will hold themselves responsible tomorrow if they fail to question what is contained in concession agreements that are signed today .
- Mr. Judu who is the Finance Officer of NDS said youth must not accept concession agreements only for jobs but rather take into account the interest of the masses .
- His statement is in reference to five concession agreements recently passed into law by the National Legislature in less than a month.

Bong County Receives US\$800,000 Hospital

- A newly constructed hospital valued at US\$800,000 has been turned over to the people of Bong County.

- The Hospital named C. B. Dunbai Maternity Hospital replaces the former C.B. Dumbai Health Centre which was destroyed during the Liberian civil war.
- The hospital will provide services to pregnant women and newborn babies.
- It will also provide dental and primary health services.
- The Government of Liberia with funding from an Irish based organization provided more than US\$550,000 for the project while the rest of the money came from other donations.
- The hospital is expected to officially open to the public next month.

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Ex-TRC Boss Wants Tribunal to Ensure Justice

[Also reported by Sky , ELBC and Truth]

NEC Releases 2011 Calendar of Events

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has released the calendar of events for the 2011 General and Presidential Elections.
- NEC said 1 November 2010 is political parties and independents candidates registration while 10 January to 06 February 2011 is the date for voters' registration and 4-10 April 2011 is exhibition of provisional registration role.
- Nomination of candidates is 05-23 July 2011 while objections and appeals will take place 25 July to 14 August 2010.
- NEC has also set 18 August 2011 as the date for final listing of candidates and political campaign will take place 18 August to 09 October 2011 .
- Meanwhile NEC has set 18 September 2011 as the date of arrival of ballot papers and elections is 11 October 2011 Elections day .

Association of Grand Gedehans Disappointed Over Putu Concession

- The Association of Grand Gedehans in the Americas has expressed disappointment over the passage of the Putu Mining Concession Agreement which they say was supported by their lawmakers .
- The association said it is disappointed over the manner in which government handled the agreement.
- It said debates into the Putu agreement was also blended with the 2010/11 National Budget's debate.
- The group also alleged that government failed to include the representation from the county on the committee that was responsible to draft the Putu Ore Mining Concession Agreement .
- They noted that the draft agreement was kept secret from citizens of Grand Gedeh. *[Also reported on ELBC and SKY]*

Triplet's Mother Cries for Help

- The mother of a set of triplet is appealing to government and other well-meaning persons and groups to come to her aid.
- Merlin Weah She said she has not gotten any support from any one neither the father of the children since she gave birth in August this year .
- She spoke of the need of urgent assistance for the upkeep of her three girls who are in need of food and medication .
- According to her, the father of the children has completely abandoned her and has fled to Bomi County to dig diamond .

Liberia

Soros supports World ORT project for Liberia's ex-child soldiers **www.ort.org**

A few "dirty stones" given to supermodel Naomi Campbell made headlines around the world when they formed part of her testimony in former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor's war crimes trial at The Hague. But no such attention is paid to the tens of thousands of young Liberians who are locked in an unglamorous struggle to overcome the horror of a youth spent fighting two savage civil wars which raged between 1989 and 2003. As children they were forced into military service where they saw, and often did, unspeakable things. Now that the West African country is enjoying relative peace and democracy under the continent's first female head of state, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, these former combatants are trying to get the education they were denied in the hope of building a normal, decent life. Thanks to a very generous \$1 million grant by billionaire philanthropist George Soros's Open Society Institute (OSI), World ORT's International Cooperation Department (ORT IC), which has been implementing non-sectarian aid programmes in developing countries for 50 years, is there to help them. ORT IC's Liberian Youth Training and Employment project will directly help 1,000 people – young people who simply missed out on school because of the wars as well as ex-combatants – in six rural districts gain vital practical skills through an apprenticeship scheme. But the project stands to benefit countless more people by helping to improve training and employability throughout the whole country.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Public order more important than Guinea poll date: PM **Reuters**

Guinea's prime minister said on Monday that maintaining public order was more important than holding a planned September 19 presidential election on time, but stopped short of announcing a delay in the poll. "The priority must be given to public order as an election is not possible if there is chaos," Prime Minister Jean Marie Dore said on state television after meeting Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde, who are due to face each other in a run-off. The pair were summoned to meet the prime minister after a weekend of clashes between their supporters killed one and injured 50 others in the capital, Conakry.

Election chief convicted of fraud dies ahead of Guinea vote **www.english.rfi.fr**

The chairman of Guinea Conakry's Election Commission, Ben Sekou Sylla, who was convicted of fraud in the first round of presidential elections, has died in a Paris hospital. The news has fuelled speculation that Sunday's presidential run-off could be postponed. Sylla's death follows a weekend of violence in the capital, with Prime Minister Jean Marie Dore warning that public order is more important than holding the election. It also comes days after his conviction for "voter fraud" by a court in the suburbs of Conakry. Sylla's conviction is feared to have damaged the credibility of Sunday's long-delayed second round of voting, with round one on 27 June raising hopes of a new era after 50 years of autocratic rule. Sylla, 57, had been undergoing treatment in Paris for several months. He was hospitalised since March, travelling to Guinea for the first round before returning to Paris after interim results were announced in July.

Chief of Defence Staff of Guinean army arrested **www.afriquejet.com**

The Chief of Defence Staff of the Guinean army, General Nouhoum Thiam, and a number of officers have been arrested, sources in the capital said on Monday. The reasons and dates for the arrests have not been disclosed but the capital, Conakry, has been awash with rumours of a coup. There has been heavy security over the past few days at public buildings and the headquarters of the National Radio and Television Corporation, while the acting interim president General Sekouba Konate was on a trip to Libya and Morocco. According to some sources, General Konate is about to pay a visit to Lebanon, but Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore has threatened to resign if that trips takes place. The arrest of General Thiam comes less than one week before the second round of the presidential election on Sunday.

Guinea PM hints at possible poll delay **Reuters**

Guinea's prime minister said on Monday that maintaining public order was more important than holding a planned September 19 presidential election on time, but stopped short of announcing a delay in the poll. Prime Minister

Jean Marie Dore's comments, the strongest sign yet of a possible poll delay in the top bauxite exporter, follow a weekend of violence between backers of presidential hopefuls Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde. "We are due to hold an election on the 19th (but) the conditions must be right. The most important of these conditions is security," Dore said on state television. "The priority must be given to public order as an election is not possible if there is chaos," he added. Police deployed extra forces around Guinea's capital Conakry Monday after street fighting between supporters of rivals in the run-off left one dead and 50 injured over the weekend.

Diallo Aide Expects Sunday Vote in Guinea Despite Violence
www.voanews.com

A top official of the Union of Democratic Forces in Guinea (UDFG) said supporters of presidential candidate and former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo are not interested in committing violence ahead of Sunday's second round vote. Yousouff Sylla, a special adviser to Mr. Diallo, predicted the vote will proceed as planned despite demands by supporters of the other candidate, opposition leader Alpha Conde, that the vote be postponed. "The (interim) Prime Minister (Jean-Marie Dore) met them (Diallo and Conde) separately just to inform them that we need order and safety for everybody to go peacefully and vote on the 19th of September as scheduled," he said. The meeting followed violent clashes between supporters of both candidates over the weekend that left at least one dead and dozens injured. The government has banned street protests. Interim Prime Minister Dore Monday called on both candidates to ensure that their supporters do not engage in violence during the vote.

Guinean civil society condemns pre-election clashes
APA

Guinean civil society has vehemently condemned the clashes noted at the weekend in Conakry, between the supporters of the two frontrunners for the 19 September presidential runoff, which left one person dead and some 50 injured. "The civil society firmly condemns the despicable violence that destabilize Guinea, dangerously compromises national unity and endanger the electoral process", the country's civil society activists said in a statement released on Monday in Conakry. Facing such threat on the citizens' security, on the country's peace and stability, the Guinean civil society "urgently urges the transition leader and Prime Minister to take all the appropriate measures to safeguard the lives of the people, their properties and preserve national unity", the statement reports. In addition, Guinean civil society activists urged the two leaders to put strong pressure on their supports and sympathizers in a bid to control them and deter any provocative actions likely to trouble law and order as well as social cohesion.

Ivory Coast

Russian oil company LUKoil to invest \$780m in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire
www.ghanabusinessnews.com

The second largest oil company in Russia, LUKoil says it will invest an amount of \$780 million into oil exploration activities in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, according to the Business Insider publication, citing LUKoil's second executive and shareholder, Leonid Fedun. It added, however that no one within the company has confirmed that figure. According to the report Fedun announced last week that the major Russian oil producer expects to find more oil in Africa than in Russia. LUKoil, the report said has confirmed that at an industry presentation on September 8, Fedun said that LUKoil may find more potential petroleum in West Africa than in West Siberia, Russia's biggest production region. "We will conduct unprecedented geological exploration in the next two years, drilling up to 13 wells," he said.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone gets €52.5m EU aid
SAPA

Sierra Leone has received a grant of €52.5m from the European Union "to consolidate its recovery efforts and democratic governance", the finance ministry said on Monday. Infrastructural projects will receive €23.5m to rehabilitate high priority roads and bridges including works in the capital to prevent incidents of flooding and landslides, said a statement from the ministry of finance and economic development. €16m will be allocated to the agricultural sector to provide support to increase productivity, and €5m allocated to decentralisation of service delivery to enhance the role of local councils in the decision-making and improve delivery of basic services at local levels. "The grant is in line with the EU's Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2010 through the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) and will compliment Sierra Leone's strategic approach to poverty reduction," the statement said. In co-operation with the EU, Sierra Leone stands to benefit from a total of €264m under the EDF scheme for the period 2008 to 2013, the release added.

CNN

Thursday, 16 September 2010

Court: Top Khmer Rouge cadre charged with war crimes

By Miranda Leitsinger, CNN

(CNN) -- Four of the top former surviving Khmer Rouge cadre were charged with war crimes in Cambodia by a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal for their role in the late 1970s genocide that left nearly one-quarter of the country's population dead, the court said Thursday.

The four also face charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and offences under the Cambodian Criminal Code 1956, including murder, torture and religious persecution.

The accused are Nuon Chea, acting prime minister under the Khmer Rouge, who also was known as Brother No. 2; Ieng Sary, the Khmer Rouge's deputy prime minister; Ieng Thirith, the regime's minister of social affairs and action; and Khieu Samphan, head of state.

"The charges are officially brought against the accused," co-investigating judge You Bunleng said at a news conference on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. The indictment was signed Wednesday.

It is not known when the trial will begin, but the trial chamber has four months to hold substantive hearings, You Bunleng said. He noted that more than 2,100 civil parties have been admitted to the case.

Victims of the Khmer Rouge welcomed the decision.

"It's good news, but it's about time," said Cambodian-American Theary Seng, chairwoman of the Center for Justice and Reconciliation. "It's just another signal to the larger public that the court is ... alive and kicking."

"It opens the door for the trial of the second case to move forward, and of course, this is the heart of the matter," she added.

The decision follows the July 26 conviction of the notorious chief of a torture prison, where more than 14,000 people died during the Khmer Rouge's reign from 1975-79 .

Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, was convicted of war crimes, crimes against humanity, murder and torture. He was sentenced to 19 years by the tribunal, also known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Duch is appealing his sentence. His lawyers say he should be acquitted because he was "a witness of the events of the relevant period" and should be in witness protection.

His sentence sparked anger as word spread outside the courtroom. Some said it made them lose faith in the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal.

Prosecutors are appealing Duch's sentence, saying the punishment was too light.

At least 1.7 million people died under the ultra-Maoist Khmer Rouge regime, from execution, disease, starvation and overwork, according to the Documentation Center of Cambodia.

An estimated 800,000 of those were violent deaths, You Bunleng said.

Duch's verdict was the first for the tribunal, which began its work in 2007 after a decade of on-and-off negotiations between the United Nations and Cambodia over the structure and functioning of the court.