

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, 18 January 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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^{ceremony.} Peter Penfold Gagged!

...prevented from testifying as witness for Hinga Norman

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office has stopped Peter Penfold in his desperation to testify in favour of Chief Hinga Norman at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Norman had lined up over 100 witnesses.

According to a senior British diplomat, the gagging order is in line with Foreign and Commonwealth guidelines.

Peter Penfold served as British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone from 1996 to 2002 before he was recalled and forced to retire from the diplomatic service.

News of Penfold's gagging order came as a welcome relief to some senior government officials in Sierra Leone.

His public utterances, since

Norman was incarcerated by the Special Court, caused serious embarrassment to the government of Sierra Leone.

Peter Penfold, as High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, was held in very high es-

teem. He was crowned Paramount Chief as a show of gratitude.

Clarifying further, a retired Brit-

ish diplomat said that it was legitimate for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to stop Penfold from testifying before the court on the grounds that his stay in Sierra Leone was at the expense of the British tax payers and not as a private citizen.

Concord Times (Online Edition)

January 17, 2006 Tuesday

Ernest Koroma Disowns Hinga Norman

Hon. Ernest Koroma, leader of the All Peoples Congress (APC) said Sunday that he would not subscribe to pronouncements made by Special Court indictee and former Internal Affairs Minister Chief Sam Hinga Norman during their meeting at the Court's Detention Centre, New England.

Koroma who also doubles as Minority Leader in Parliament says all the issues raised by Norman have been elucidated by his party at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report while making his submission.

" I want to make it very clear that I have not been holding series of meetings with Chief Norman as reported on the Internet by his Spokesman Rev. Sam Foray," Koroma said and added that Norman requested for a meeting with him on 28 December 2005, which he responded to and during the meeting the war crimes indictee said he had a message bordering on sustainable peace and democracy that he wanted to tell on 4 January 2006.

"As a responsible citizen interested in peace and democracy I was looking forward with hope and high expectation for Norman's message that would usher in peace. On 4 January was the second time I met with him. After giving a history of life in the army, politics and onto the restoration of democracy, he gave a verbal message," the APC leader said.

He explained that Chief Norman argued that the Special Court is in breach of Articles 9,2 and 3 of the Lome Peace Accord of 7 July 1999.

Koroma says Norman threatened that if the breach is not regularized effective 4 January 2006, failing which ex-combatants would be ordered to arrest government Ministers and try them publicly as there was no longer trust between government and the ex-fighters.

"During the meetings I was more of a listener than a contributor. Because of the sensitive nature of the message I have made sure that Parliament, government and the international community are fully aware about the development," Koroma noted and maintained that he would not be a party to any thing that would derail the hard-won peace in the country.

... Giving knowledge to the people ... WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18/01/2006 ... LC 1000

Over the arrest & detention of Omrie Golley...

Margai drags Police Boss to Court



IG Acha: The ball is in your court



Margai: Determined to free Omrie Golley

By Savoh Kamara

The arrest and detention of former RUF Spokesman, Mr. Omrie Michael Golley last week was yesterday,

Tuesday, 17th January, 2006 fiercely challenged in the High Court of Sierra Leone by Mr. Charles Francis Margai on the

grounds that it was done illegally.

At the High Courts yesterday, Mr. Margai filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus

in respect of Mr. Golley which in essence, requested the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to

Contd. page 2

Margai drags Police Boss to Court

From front page
produce Mr. Omrie Michael Golley in person in court, instead of keeping him indefinitely in custody. According to Mr. Robert Kowa Esq. one of the Lawyers at the Banta Chambers of Mr. Charles Margai, who spoke to Awareness Times late yesterday evening, they have now realized that since their client, Mr. Golley was arrested and detained, no charges have been preferred against him and as a consequence, he maintains that the Writ puts the responsibility on the IG to come up with reason(s) for the arrest and detention of their client. Mr. Kowa went further to maintain that in the absence of any such reason(s), "then our client must be released from detention," he said. Mr. Kowa also disclosed that since the arrest of Mr.

Golley last Thursday, 12th January 2006, no statement has been obtained from him, but that he continues to be in the custody of the police.

Mr. Kowa further mentioned that although a Search Warrant was issued to search the hotel room of Mr. Golley, he pointed out that at the material time of his arrest, no Warrant of Arrest was produced and as such, he stated that as far as they are concerned, "the arrest was illegal", he maintained.

Asked whether as a Lawyer he was aware of the implications behind Mr. Golley's arrest, Mr. Kowa remarked, "Irrespective of whatever reason for which Mr. Golley was arrested, as our client for whom we are concerned, he is innocent." He maintained further that as a Law Firm their responsibility is to ensure

the protection and security of their client for which their services have been retained.

"This is just what we are doing, and this is exactly what we intend to accomplish," he asserted, adding, "We are performing our duty independently as professionals and we are casting no aspersions in the process."

Mr. Omrie Golley, he said is in good spirit and disclosed to Awareness Times that he has been provided a mattress on which to sleep and that he is allowed outside during the day to talk to his Lawyers.

Lawyer Kowa informed Awareness Times last night that now that the Writ of Habeas Corpus has been filed, it now remains the responsibility of the Chief Justice to assign the matter to a Judge for subsequent hearing.

As Golley, others charged...

Rtd. Major Gottor arrested?

*Alford Dillet &
Kadijatu Sesay*

Report seeping into
The Spectator
indicates that Retired

Major Jusu Gottor is one of
those arrested in connection
with ongoing investigations
into alleged "subversive
activities" by Omrie Golley.

Although the report has not
yet been confirmed by Police
or Government, Mr. Omrie
Golley and three others
according to report, would

soon be charged to Court.
In a hurriedly convened
Press Conference by the
Sierra Leone Police at its
Headquarters, George
Street, the Deputy
Inspector General of Police-
Oliver Somasa while reading
from a Press Release
disclosed that the arrest was
as a result of an earlier tip-off
that Mr. Omrie Golley was

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Rtd. Major Gottor arrested?

FROM PAGE 1

allegedly recruiting people to
destabilize the State. The
release further stated that the
intention of the Police is to
expedite the investigation and
conclude it within the Stipulated
period; adding that the Police
will further inform the public of
any charge or charges that may

be preferred. The release
further states that the public is
assured that the matter is being
professionally investigated and
that there is no cause for alarm
as the matter is under perfect
control. However, the Deputy
Police IG could not give the
names of the three already
arrest; pointing out that the

identity of the three could not
be disclosed at this early stage
of the investigations, as that
might prejudice it.

He however admitted that
some of the suspects may
have served as enrolled
personnel in the Republic of
Sierra Leone Armed Forces
(RSLAF).

From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

NOTICES & DOCUMENTS

Sierra Leone Police Force: Press Release

By Sierra Leone Police Force

Jan 17, 2006, 13:40

Following a press release from the office of the President concerning the arrest of Mr. Omrie Golley, the Inspector General of police wishes to inform the general public that Mr. Omrie Golley and three others were arrested by police on Thursday 12th January, 2006.

The arrest was as a result of an earlier tip-off that Mr. Omrie Golley was allegedly recruiting people to destabilize the state.

It is the intention of the police to expedite the investigation and conclude it within the stipulated period. As soon as this is done the police will further inform the public of any charge or charges that may be preferred.

The public is assured that the matter is being professionally investigated. There is no cause for alarm as the situation is under perfect control.

Members of the public are advised to go about their normal business.

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From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

LOCAL NEWS

10 UN Military Advisers for Sierra Leone

By Awareness Times

Jan 17, 2006, 13:52

The former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago has said in Freetown that the in coming United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), will be comprised of only ten UN Military Advisers to augment its operations.

Ambassador Mwakawago disclosed this information while speaking during his last press conference as SRSG, at a special press briefing held at the Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown.

He stated that the Military Advisers will not constitute any military Unit, and that they will be liaising directly with other UN Military Components within the sub region.

The Ambassador lauded the government of Sierra Leone, the Civil Society, the Media, Non-Governmental Organisations, and the People of Sierra Leone, for the respective role they played in helping UNAMSIL to achieve and consolidate the hard-earned peace the country is currently enjoying.

He advised members of the press to specialise in following up events, noting that the next phase of the peace process is to help rebuild the nation and to enhance the socio economic recovery drive of the country.

Ambassador Mwakago recalled that when he was appointed on the December 21st 2003, his first assignment was to write a condolence message for two peacekeepers that were involved in a plane crash and consequently lost their lives.

Commenting on the guards of Special Court, the former SRSG told journalists that by mid January, Mongolian troops would take over the primacy of securing the Special Court.

He called on all Sierra Leoneans to be law abiding, in order to help the Sierra Leone Police carry out its mandate in an efficient manner.

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Ivory party quits peace process

The ruling party in divided Ivory Coast says it is pulling out of both the transitional government and talks on the divided nation's future.

Government supporters held another day of protests at what they see as interference by the UN and France.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged an immediate end to what he called orchestrated violence.

But the ruling party's leader said the world had failed in Ivory Coast and he said French and UN troops should leave.

The BBC's James Copnall in Ivory Coast's main city, Abidjan, says the protesters now control virtually all the main streets there.

In the west of the country, around 1,000 protesters invaded and occupied a UN base at Guiglo.

Ivory Coast has been divided since September 2002, when rebels seized the north.

'Liberation'

Supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo are angry at international mediators calling for the dissolution of the parliament, which largely backs him.

The mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections, due this year.

The Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) accused the international community was carrying out a "constitutional coup d'etat".

Its leader, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, said the seven FPI ministers would withdraw from the government of national unity set up under UN auspices.

He said a "government of liberation" should be set up, to kick out the rebel New Forces in the north.

Our correspondent says this is the biggest test Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny has faced since his appointment last month.

Spiralling unrest

Mr Konan Banny must regain control of a situation which is slipping out of his hands, our correspondent adds.

Youths supporting Mr Gbagbo - the "Young Patriots" - now control virtually all the main streets in Abidjan.

Schools and shops were again closed in the city centre on Tuesday while UN vehicles were stoned.

Tear gas was fired after crowds broke through the outer fence at the UN compound.

In Guiglo, some 1,000 protesters forced Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers to take down the flags of Bangladesh and the UN, and replace them with an Ivorian one.

However, it was all done relatively peacefully, our correspondent says.

There were similar protests in other towns of the government-controlled south.

'Foreign interference'

Elections due last October were postponed because of the continued instability.

Our correspondent says the national assembly is one of Mr Gbagbo's last power bases.

Mr Gbagbo's supporters, he adds, feel that if parliament's mandate is not renewed it will mean that foreigners are imposing their will on Ivory Coast.

The former ruling PDCI has also condemned the idea of dissolving parliament.

Analysts say the international working group's move was intended to strengthen Prime Minister Banny's authority and ensure that hostile deputies did not block attempts to implement the peace process, as happened last year.

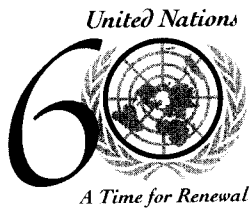
The Young Patriots have attacked French citizens in the past, most notably in November 2004 when more than 8,000 Westerners were evacuated.

Some 10,000 French and African peacekeepers are in Ivory Coast.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4620838.stm>

Published: 2006/01/17 22:47:30 GMT

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Secretary-General Press Release

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

SG/SM/10306
AFR/1316
17 January 2006

SECRETARY-GENERAL DEMANDS IMMEDIATE END TO 'ORCHESTRATED VIOLENCE'

IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

The Secretary-General expresses his deep concern at the continuing disturbances in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular in Abidjan, Daloa, San Pedro and Guiglo, as well as other areas of the country. He condemns the orchestrated violence directed against the United Nations, the population, as well as the inaction of some national authorities in responding to the situation.

The Secretary-General demands an immediate end to these attacks which contravene Ivorian law and seriously endanger the peace process as set out by the African Union and the Security Council.

The Secretary-General reminds all Ivorian leaders of their individual responsibility for acts of violence carried out by their supporters and for keeping the peace process on track. He calls on all Ivorian parties to fully cooperate with the Prime Minister, the Head of the United Nations Mission and the international community in working to implement the road map to bring an end to the crisis.

* * * * *



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 Jan 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia

Sirleaf names ex-rival in new cabinet

MONROVIA, Jan 17, 2006 (AFP) - Liberia's new President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson has released a proposed partial cabinet list, offering a key portfolio to a former political rival and presidential aspirant. Sirleaf gave the key post of education to Joseph Korto, who ran for presidency in the first round of polls, but lost dismally. Education is seen as crucial in post-war **Liberia** where the majority of children are uneducated because either they were fighting in the war or had their schools destroyed.

The defense portfolio went to Brownie Samukai, former police chief under the interim government of Amos Sawyer, who served the country between 1990 and 1994. The finance ministry will be headed by Antoinette Sayeh. Samuel Kofi Woods, a prominent Liberian human rights activist and outspoken critic of former President Charles Taylor, will take over the labour ministry. Others named already include Walter Gwenigale for the ministry of health and Eugene Shannon in charge of lands, mines and energy. Key portfolios still to be delivered are foreign and legal affairs.

BBC Last Updated: Tuesday, 17 January 2006, 12:20 GMT

Liberian cabinet posts announced

By Elizabeth Blunt, BBC News, Monrovia

Newly inaugurated Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has announced the first appointments to her government. Bringing in a former World Bank colleague, Antoinette Sayeh, to run the Finance Ministry has delighted international financial institutions. Other appointments include the human rights activist, Kofi Woods, who campaigned against the excesses of her predecessor, Charles Taylor, at labour, and a journalist turned businessmen, Willis Knuckles, at public works.

VOA 17 January 2006

Liberia's New President Faces Stiff Opposition in Congress

By Nico Colombant, Monrovia

Liberia's newly-inducted President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf faces stiff opposition in Congress, which will make it challenging to set the economic and social reform agenda she promised on inauguration day. Even as work was being done to renovate parliament grounds for the inauguration, newly-elected members of Congress took the oath of office inside the decrepit Capitol building. They then elected an ally of exiled warlord Charles Taylor as speaker of the House, and a former rebel leader as president of the Senate.

Liberian president urges refugees to come home

GENEVA, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, **Liberia's** new president, has urged nearly 200,000 compatriots scattered across West Africa to return home and rebuild their lives and shattered country, the U.N. refugee agency said on Tuesday.

The Christian Science Monitor 17 January 2005 edition

Can Africa's first woman president get Liberia back on track?

By Emira Woods [Commentary]

WASHINGTON – The Johnson-Sirleaf administration could well be the last best hope for peace and security in Liberia and West Africa. US support for Africa's first democratically elected woman president must move beyond dignitaries attending her inaugural festivities to a set of concrete policies and practices that help give Liberia the quick infusion of revenue needed to stabilize its economy and society. The return of stolen assets, debt cancellation, responsible investment, and aid targeted to human needs could help transform a symbolic trip into a turning point where the US begins, at long last, a meaningful and mutually beneficial engagement with Liberia.

The New York Times 17 January 2006

Liberia's Harvard-Trained 'Queen' Is Sworn In as Leader

By LYDIA POLGREEN

MONROVIA, Liberia, Jan. 16 -- Greeted by shouts of "Queen of Africa!" and standing before the bullet-scarred capitol of this war-torn nation, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-trained banker and stalwart survivor of Liberia's brutal politics, took the presidential oath of office on Monday, becoming Africa's first woman to be elected a head of state. Ms. Johnson Sirleaf, 67, told the crowd that she would bring "a fundamental break with the past, thereby requiring we take bold and decisive steps to address the problems that for decades have stunted our progress, undermined national unity and kept old and new cleavages in ferment."

The Independent 17 January 2006

Liberia's 'iron lady' pledges reform

By Rob Crilly in Monrovia

Africa's first elected female head of state has promised a rapid peace dividend to the war-weary people of Liberia in an inauguration ceremony marked by a display of backing from Washington.

BBC Monitoring 17 January 2006

16/01/2006 12:46:23

First Lady, Rice Attend Liberian Ceremony

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, First lady Laura Bush smiled broadly and applauded the historic swearing in on Monday of **Liberia's** new leader, the first woman ever elected president in Africa, who exclaimed that the future belongs to women "because we have taken charge of it."

"I think it's really important worldwide," Mrs. Bush said about Sirleaf's inauguration, which falls on the day Americans honor civil rights icon, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "I think it's particularly important on the continent of Africa, because traditionally women have been excluded in many African cultures _ not all of them, but in many."

01/17/2006 12:29:11

Reform On the Way for Liberia, Says US Secretary of State

Washington, DC, Jan 16, 2006 (United States Department of State/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --After years of war and civil unrest, Liberians voted for a "peaceful future" and are now facing a "new chapter," said Secretary of State Rice. During a radio interview with Liberian Star Radio January 16, the secretary talked about the progress Liberia has made in the last few years. She credited the citizens of Liberia for their decision to hold a free election, which resulted in the country's first woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

President Graces Inauguration of New Liberian Leader

Abuja, Jan 16, 2006 (Nigeria First/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Olusegun Obasanjo joined other African and world leaders in Monrovia on 16 January to witness the inauguration of Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as Liberia's first elected President after 14 years of civil war.

Merkel congratulates Liberia's first female president

BERLIN, Jan 17, 2006 (AFP) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday congratulated Ellen Johnson Sirleaf after she was sworn as **Liberia's** first female president.

Daily Nation (Kenya) 17 January 2006

Good Luck, Madam President

Editorial

Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has a tough task ahead of her. Besides making history by becoming the first ever female politician to win a presidential election in Africa, Johnson-Sirleaf inherits a terribly war-scarred country, one that has not known peace for the last 25 years.

Liberians Welcome President's Pledge to Curb Corruption, Create Jobs

by Tamela Hultman

Monrovia, Jan 16, 2006 (allAfrica.com/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Ellen Johnson Sirleaf walked home today, through cheering, crying crowds that parted reluctantly as security officials cleared a path. Miles and hours after taking the oath of office, she was still paying her respects to "ordinary citizens", whom she specifically addressed in her inaugural speech. Acknowledging the hard times created by 15 years of war, she pledged an administration committed to reconciliation, education, health, jobs and dignity.

China gives two million dlrs to new Liberian government

MONROVIA, Jan 16, 2006 (AFP) - Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Monday gave **Liberia's** new government more than two million US dollars (1.6 million euros), hours after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Tuesday, 17 January 2006, 15:54 GMT

UN base invaded in Ivory Coast

There has been a second day of protests in Ivory Coast despite pleas for calm.

Some 1,000 supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo have invaded a UN base in the western town of Guiglo. Roads have again been blocked in Abidjan. They are angry at international mediators, who say that parliament, loyal to Mr Gbagbo, should stand down. The mediators were appointed by the UN to oversee the peace process and the holding of elections in the country split in two since September 2002.

Ivorian party says withdrawing from peace process

ABIDJAN, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's ruling Ivorian Popular Front party (FPI) is withdrawing from a U.N. peace process to reunite the war-divided country, the party's president said on Tuesday. "The FPI declares it is pulling out of the peace process," President Pascal Affi N'Guessan said in a statement which followed street protests against a call by foreign mediators to dissolve the country's parliament.

Local Media – Newspapers

Nine Nominated for Cabinet Positions in New Government

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst and New Vision)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has nominated nine persons for her cabinet, according to an Executive Mansion press release issued a few hours after her inauguration yesterday. Those named are renowned human rights advocate, Samuel Kofi Woods, as Minister of Labor, Dr. Antoinette Sayeh (Finance Minister), Dr. Walter Gwenigale (Health Minister) Brownie Samukai (Defense Minister), Varbah Gayflor (Gender and Development Minister), Willis Knuckles (Public Works Minister), Dr. Eugene Shannoh (Lands, Mines and Energy Minister), Dr. Joseph Korto (Minister of Education) and Morris Dukuly (Chief of Staff at the Executive Mansion).

President Declares Corruption as Public Enemy

(Daily Observer, The News, Inquirer, New Vision and The Forum)

- In her inaugural address yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf declared corruption as a major public enemy, saying that her administration will wage war against corruption regardless of where it exists or who practices it.

Nine Heads of State Attend Inauguration

(Daily Observer)

- Nine African heads of states, including top African Union leaders, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, were among guests who graced Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf's inauguration yesterday, according to the Chief of Protocol of Liberia Vivienne Wreh.

Liberian Leader, UN and U.S. Commend Youth for Cleaning Monrovia

(Daily Observer)

- In a U.S. embassy press release, President Johnson-Sirleaf, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss and U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth praised Youth in Action participants for their hard work in preparing Monrovia for the inauguration.

Liberia will not Support Subversion, President Assures Regional Leaders

(The News)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf assured regional leaders in Monrovia yesterday that her administration would not allow the use of Liberian soil for uprising against other states as happened in Liberia's recent past.

U.S. Still Pressing for Taylor Trial

(New Vision)

- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer said recently that the U.S. continues to press for the trial of former President Charles Taylor for war crimes at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, adding that President Johnson-Sirleaf was aware of the U.S. position.

Ghanaian Ambassador Calls for the Lifting of Liberia's Sanctions

(New Vision)

- Speaking in Monrovia over the weekend when former transitional government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant bestowed one of Liberia's highest honors on him, Ghanaian Ambassador to Liberia Kwame Amoah-Awua said that concrete support for the new government should include the lifting UN sanctions on diamond and timber.

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

RADIO VERITAS *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Johnson-Sirleaf Calls for National Healing

- In her inaugural address yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called for national healing to ensure the speedy recovery of Liberia, saying that she will work with every sector of the country in a drive to bury the past.
- She promised economic empowerment of the people to put their lives back together.
- Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf promised that her administration would support a strong and constructive opposition for the growth of democracy.
- The President assured the people of Liberia and the international community that her administration would not compromise corruption.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Nine Nominated for Cabinet Positions in New Government

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Two African Leaders See Prospects for More African Women Heads of State

- Speaking in separate interviews, two African heads of state attending the inauguration of Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf, Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigerian, said that they saw good prospects for the election of more women presidents in Africa.

Star Radio *(News culled from website at 09:00 am)*

U.S. Secretary of State Urges Liberians to Participate in New Democracy

- Speaking in Monrovia yesterday following the inauguration of Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice encouraged every citizen of Liberia to be part of the country's new democratic process. Dr. Rice urged Liberians to safeguard their democracy and care about what happens in the country.
- She said Liberia has a good future and the United States will stand by the post-war country. On Liberia's debt relief, Dr. Rice identified "sound economic policy" as key to debt cancellation.

UN Secretary-General Congratulates Liberians on Inauguration of New Leader

- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday congratulated the people of Liberia on the inauguration of their new President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, whom he said received the historic mandate to ensure lasting stability in Liberia.

Ghanaian Professor Named as Technical Advisor to Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- The United Nations recently appointed Ghanaian Governance and Leadership Professor Kenneth Adyemang Attafuah to serve as technical advisor of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia. He will also serve as a member of the TRC for a two-year period.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Patriotic Vanguard website

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=272

Hinga Norman: Tragic Hero or Opportunist? (Part 1)

- Sunday 1 January 2006.

This is the first of a series of articles by Stephen Lawrence, the Patriotic Vanguard's correspondent in Denmark. The articles will examine war crimes indictee Sam Hinga Norman, President Kabbah, Vice President Solomon Berewa, Johnny Paul Koroma and other major players in Sierra Leone's recent history. Even though Norman will feature in all of the articles, this is not just about him.

Lawrence is a political analyst with deep and profound knowledge of Sierra Leone.

By Stephen Lawrence, Denmark

The unique character of the Special Court of Sierra Leone cannot only be found in its hybrid nature but also in the way it surprised many a political pundit by taking into custody a very powerful minister of a government which the international community itself helped to restore - by any means possible. Sam Hinga Norman, at the hey days of a somewhat universal frenzy to restore a democratically elected government back to power, became an epitome of heroism in the pursuit of such a goal.

So when a British mercenary firm, Sandline International, collaborated with the powerful to break a UN embargo on arms to Sierra Leone, the chief recipient of the cache was Chief Hinga Norman - the demagogic warrior from Ngolala village who had all of a sudden snatched power in all but name from a hibernating President Kabbah. In the bid to bring back Kabbah to power after the AFRC stunned the world with a most unexpected coup, Norman was the man on the ground resisting the forces of anti-democracy. If there was no Hinga Norman, there would have been no kamajors; if there were no kamajors, the AFRC would have still been in power; then Kabbah would not have been in power; if Kabbah had not been in power, Hinga Norman would not have been in jail. That's why supporters of the thinly-coated civil defence militia betraying a tribalistic, if regional, simplistic nomenclature are furious about how their man was used as a cat's-paw to remove the chestnut from the fire - and then dumped, sorely disgraced. Just at the height of settling down to continue to celebrate kamajor power as new Internal Affairs minister, the shine was removed from Hinga Norman's shoe. That fateful day, he had a line-up programme to meet traditional elders after meeting with President Kabbah just the previous day. Norman had given the usual broad smile - as it was in those days in Guinea when he used to get directives from the head of state - and said good night to his former boss, not knowing it was the last as friends. It could not have been less amazing to those chiefs when they witnessed the arrest of Sierra Leone's most famous (infamous, depending from which side of the coin you are looking) contemporary civilian defender, with the police bundling the bearded man into a waiting van, handcuffed.

It was like abomination itself taking a position in forbidden territory. By the time the news had even reached all corners of Freetown, there were already loud protests on street corners - as Norman was taken away to the Court which had been set up to try those bearing the greatest responsibility in an 11-year war that ate not only the physique of the nation, but also her psyche. The American-born former prosecutor, David Crane, said he had enough evidence - as for all the others arrested - to make the former deputy Defence Minister never to see the light of day again. Ever since, the configuration of the politics of Sierra Leone in the aftermath of the May 25 coup took a deep u-turn. And when recently, Norman himself, in a desperate bid to fight back from the shackles and destroy the plans of Kabbah to choose Vice President Berewa as successor, made a pact with his former arch enemies (the leaders of the AFRC and RUF), who themselves were in the cells of the Court for the same reasons as Norman's, analysts opened another chapter in the zigzagging politico-military life of Sierra Leone's first coup-maker.

Hinga Norman has come a long way. He started this journey to power - again - through the self-same coup-makers of Sierra Leone. When the NPRC, headed by Capt. Strasser, swept its way to power, overthrowing the APC, which had already committed itself to returning to multi-party democracy (at least in name), the junta boys appointed Norman (a former soldier himself) as Regent Chief. Before long, Norman had created a myth around himself as the leader of the fiercest fighters in the war. Before long, Norman was literally at war with his benefactors. Norman became more than a chief: his fighters had taken full military powers: fighting a war as a militia, yet now having power to arrest regular soldiers. The accusation that there were in actual fact no rebels, but that the Sierra Leone Army were the sobels (soldiers by day, rebels by night), captivated the minds of the local people - under Hinga Norman's chieftaincy. Soon, the kamajors had got a territory where no member of the army dared tread. And that was where his friendship with Kabbah started. The NPRC were in a desperate move to rebuild a lost nation - as they said - and they were looking for sons of the soil all around to come and help. Soon Kabbah became the Chairman of the Advisory Council, James Jonah was recruited to become elections chief, Kadie Sesay was brought in from the university, Berewa was part of Kabbah's team. All of them, together with Norman, were serving the nation after having been appointed by a military government.

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Hinga Norman: Tragic Hero Or Opportunist? (Part Two)

- Monday 16 January 2006.

In this piece our Denmark correspondent Stephen Lawrence continues his take-no-prisoner assessment of perhaps the most controversial politician in Sierra Leone's history, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman and other players.

By Stephen Lawrence in Denmark

The recent press release purportedly coming from supporters of Sam Hinga Norman with the motive to disrupt the peace in Sierra Leone should not come as a surprise to those who know the maverick history and ambition of the Special Court indictee. It is not the first time - and may not be the last.

I was in Sierra Leone in January 2004 when officials of the Special Court discovered that Hinga Norman was using the phone facilities accorded him to incite his kamajors to mobilize and come to the city to free him and apparently make him head of state. At the time, I had a friend working at the Court, and he told me the details of the diabolic communications Norman had relayed to his former fighters. This friend of mine (who himself had personally taken the cult-hero status given to Norman by many supporters as truth and had expected him to rely on the law for his freedom) was so dismayed and disappointed that he had to ask whether Norman was actually the real deal.

Yes, Hinga Norman is a real: I tried to give an answer to my friend's question - as if he really did not know that already. But my friend was justified to have asked the question, because he was a foreigner and did not know much about Norman. But those of us who know Norman know that he has been a schemer all his life - that is, ever since he was sensible enough to distinguish between right and wrong. Let's have a look....

In 1967, as a young lieutenant entrusted with the responsibility of ADC (aide-de-camp) to the then Governor-General Henry Lightfoot-Boston, Norman first exhibited traits of absurd disloyalty when he joined the first ever coup-makers of Sierra Leone to put the democratic process to a halt. He personally arrested and detained the man he was supposed to protect! Their aim was to protect the SLPP and prevent the APC from taking over after winning the elections that year - the first time in Independent Africa that an Opposition party was defeating an incumbent. With that blot and an unsuccessful enterprise, the coup makers were booted out by junior officers in the army. Norman survived, but he was removed from the military. Yet, carrying along his deceptive nature ('monkey norba lef in black han'), Norman, even in the wilderness, promoted himself to captain and started referring to himself as retired Captain Sam Hinga Norman - and up to the day he was arrested by the Special Court, that was how many people had come to call him; but one only needs to check the military records to discover that the archives only have a former Lt. Sam Hinga Norman (can you beat that?) .

But that is taking the story too far too early. Norman retired into partial oblivion, but apparently secretly had plans to carry out his aim to the top. In his south-eastern home, Norman reportedly started recruiting young men into a 'society' wherein they were given quasi-military training. Credible sources say these young men were allegedly used as thugs to carry out diabolical missions in elections and serious land disputes so that their head, Sam Hinga Norman, became a lord to himself. This culminated to the 'Hindo Hindo' crisis that had to be quelled by the military. Yet Norman was never daunted. People close to him have revealed that he initially was not hostile to Foday Sankoh's rebellion on hearing that it was aimed at removing the APC from power.

However, that support waned and dissipated when the soldiers took over in 1992 and he was made Regent Chief of Tellu Bornghor. Just a Regent Chief, but immediately Norman all but transformed himself into a full-fledged Paramount Chief - even becoming more powerful than all the actual Paramount Chiefs combined. With his fighters always at hand, Norman ingratiated himself with the NPRC boys and was soon to advise that his combatants act as volunteers or vigilantes to guide the soldiers in unknown terrain. He called his men kamajors, hunters with shot guns. But his schemes were soon to be discovered (as I indicated in Part 1), as regular soldiers and these men started having conflicts of interest and clashes, culminating to the infamous Tellu Bornghor massacre whose death toll is still to be properly determined. Norman himself escaped like the proverbial spider.

Only to resurface during the 1996 elections as strong supporter and campaigner of the SLPP and Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. And when the party won, Kabbah indeed made him Deputy Defence Minister. Hinga Norman was definitely coming to the top. He started his careful, calculated strategy to dismantle the 'APC army' and create his own. Before long, the kamajors came into extra prominence as those that all along had actually been defending the country against the RUF. The kamajors, as we all know, became a law to themselves and could now openly attack, disarm, detain, and even kill regular soldiers with impunity - sure nothing would come out of it, as long as Hinga Norman was at defence.

Because the peace train had already been started by the NPRC, and although Norman was reported to have supported a military campaign to the end, a peace accord was signed in Abidjan on 30th November 1996. On his return from Abidjan at midnight on that day, President Kabbah showered flamboyant praises on Norman and his kamajors for apparently ending the war.

But who says Hinga Norman would be satisfied with that? Even before the peace accord's ink could be dry on paper, the kamajors were going ahead with their military campaign - ceasefire or no ceasefire - attacking RUF bases, including Camp Zogoda (this came out clearly during the nation-wide public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission).

Norman's justification for continuing with the military option was that rebels should never be trusted; and he immediately gave them a two-week ultimatum to either surrender or be forced to do so - despite the fact that the accord was clear on how to

disarm. The RUF cried foul and complained about the attacks. International pressure was brought to bear on the hawks to give peace a chance. Progress was subsequently made, resulting to the RUF being confident enough to send its representatives to Freetown to sit in the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (a product of the peace accord).

But it was not to last. Norman played no small role - inside sources say - including playing the tribal card, in convincing Phillip Palmer, Fayia Musa and Agnes Dean-Jalloh (all hailing from the same region as Norman and the SLPP) to disown Foday Sankoh and announce his overthrow. And when Sankoh moved from his jungle base to attend a 'peace' conference in Nigeria, General Sanni Abacha (the late dictator does not need any introduction) arrested him for unlawful possession of arms - though he was given a guest house and luxurious facilities, including a satellite phone.

Yet those actions never ended the war. It instead started all over, making nonsense of the signed accord, as rebel attacks intensified - now mainly directed to the North. At the same time, the soldiers were complaining that they were not given sufficient logistics to prosecute the war - as opposed to the bounty being dished out to the kamajors by the Ministry of Defence. The animosity between the two groups worsened, and the kamajors became bold enough to impose a curfew for soldiers in the East and to brazenly attack the military brigade in Kenema at a time when Hinga Norman was present in town and the late Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Hassan Conteh (later executed by the SLPP, but later on that), was in the brigade.

Therefore, on the eve of the AFRC coup, every perceptive observer of the politico-military situation in Sierra Leone would tell you that the peace process, initiated by the NPRC, had been mismanaged by the SLPP so much so that the whole country was literally in a mess. An attempt by Norman and co to use the dissident RUF men to convince the rank and file to stop fighting and themselves disown Sankoh backfired terribly - as the boys tricked and arrested all those sent to talk to them until their leader was released.

The army suddenly looked for a short cut (please note that I am not a supporter of coups; I'm just recounting the facts) to peace. They left the bush and came to town on May 25 1997 and overthrew the SLPP, putting in its place a junta, headed by Johnny Paul Koroma, who was up to that day in prison for treason.

But that's another story. Koroma had always denied planning any coup, but that Hinga Norman initiated his arrest when army units stationed at Sierra Rutile defended themselves against a kamajor attack which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Norman's men who wanted to take over control of the mines from the regular army. The immediate reaction was to put treason charges on the commander of the troops, at the time Johnny Paul Koroma. Vintage Hinga Norman! Yet that does not mean the army did not have its share of the blame on why and how things went wrong in Sierra Leone. (Part Three coming soon)