

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Chief Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC bids farewell to colleagues Wednesday evening as he prepares to depart from the Special Court.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, 18 May 2006

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

... American Accuses of Espionage Docked Again / <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 3-4
Mosquito's Camp Was Destroyed by Daniel / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 5
Suspected Spy, 3 Others Rearrested / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 6
Sierra Leonean Elected Special Court President / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 7
Africa Never Knew Taylor... A Global Threat / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 8-9
Charles Taylor May Escape Execution / <i>New Vision</i>	Pages 10-11

International Press

American Who Took Pictures of War Crimes Court... / <i>Associated Press</i>	Page 12
Gadhafi Blasts Obasanjo Over Taylor's Handover / <i>Sun News</i>	Page 13
Gadhafi Backs Taylor / <i>Liberian Observer</i>	Page 14
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 15-18

Awoko

Thursday, 18 May 2006

The case that refuses to end

America accuses of espionage docked again

By Ophaniel Gooding

Retired United States Marine, Michael Chemidliu, together with other Sierra Leoneans who were discharged on Monday by a Freetown Magistrate

on a three-count espionage charge have been docked again.

At the concluded trial at the Magistrate Court No.2, presided over by Adrian Fisher, the American accused was arraigned together with

three other Sierra Leoneans namely Felix Rogers, Damasco Kamara and Collins Kamara but yesterday however, Damasco Kamara was not among those docked.

The accused are now

Contd. Page 2

America accuses of espionage docked again

From Front Page

standing trial on one count charge of conspiracy to engage on a purpose prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone.

Representing the Inspector General of Police, the Director of Public Prosecution, Oladipo Vivan Robin-Mason made an application under Sec. 112 of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) for an amendment to the indictment.

At the Freetown Magistrate Court No. 1, Magistrate Margai granted the amendment application but rejected the representation pronounced by I. Kanu to deputize Defence Counsel A. Sesay.

Lawyer Kanu, whose mobile phone was seized by the Magistrate for using it in court, submitted an application for bail for the accused persons.

In his application, I. Kanu cited that, "Sec. 79(3) of the CPA 32 of 1965" pointed

out that the offence the accused were standing trial for was bail-able.

He disclosed that the first accused's passport was with the police and could not leave the jurisdiction, and further pointed out that the accused had reliable surety.

The DPP swiftly objected this application, pointing out that, "conspiracy charged is related to substantive offences of the CPA."

In his reply to the said statutory provision highlighted by I. Kanu, the DPP said, "the specific charged is the issue of state security."

DPP Robin-Mason further submitted that as a result, the issue should over ride the immediate constitutional rights of each of the accused persons."

"I urged you that you do

not exercise your discretion in favour of granting the application," the DPP said.

As the Magistrate was about to adjourn the matter, Lawyer P. Fofanah rushed in, apologized for coming late and announced his representation for the accused persons.

P. Fofanah pointed out that, "We have fundamental jurisdictional issues to deal with relating to this trial."

Highlighting one of the issues, he pointed out, "is the constitutional right of the court to try the case."

However, the Magistrate informed him that these issues would be brought up at the next adjourned date.

Speaking with lawyer I. Kanu, he explained that he was trying to contact his colleague to inform him about his seized mobile phone.

Awoko

Thursday, 18 May 2006

“Mosquito’s camp was destroyed by Daniel”-*Kamabgote*

The 19th witness, Kekura Amara alas Kamagbote, in the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) trial at the Special Court yesterday revealed that after the Kamajors attacked the camp where Mosquito was based at Panguma, it ceased to be.

The witness, also a Kamajor, said he was initiated in 1996 into the society through the aid of the chiefs in his chiefdom and before their initiation could end, Kamoh Kowa asked that they should be released so that they would go and fight the rebels who had been attacking civilians.

Kamagbote disclosed that

their initiator agreed to the request, so they headed for Tongo after being briefed on how to dislodge the rebels, which they finally did.

In that battle, the witness continued, Daniel Kefala who was a Commander destroyed the camp where Mosquito was based. Also 12 camps were also destroyed. But added that Mr. Amara was later killed in an ambush.

Another witness, Shaka Lahai, also explained in court about the three attacks they carried out in Tongo.

He said before 1996, the Kamajors and soldiers were in good relationship but after

the May 29th coup they heard on radio that all Kamajors should surrender to the soldiers, and that when they refused they were forcefully disarmed which forced them to flee to Pendembu.

Later, they were told by Eddie Massally to fight on the ousted government’s side, so they were relocated to Bo Waterside together with ECOMOG forces.

During their stay there, they were told to capture Tongo where the rebels and soldiers were mining.

Mr. Lahai said they eventually captured the town after two unsuccessful attempts.

Concord Times
Thursday, 18 May 2006

Suspected Spy, 3 others rearrested

Story: Sahr Musa Yamba

Michael Chimildine, and three other Sierra Leoneans Monday discharged by Magistrate Fisher on charges of conspiracy and spying were Tuesday afternoon

rearrested. Director of Criminal Investigations Department, Musa Bockarie Lappia confirmed to Concord Times.

Lappia refused to comment further stating, "it is a legal issue."

He however revealed the accused would appear in court Wednesday on the same charges of conspiracy and spying.

Unconfirmed sources intimated

Cont. page 3

Suspected Spy, 3 others rearrested

From page 1

Concord Times as we went to press the accused would be appearing before a different Magistrate, Sam Margai.

It is not immediately clear why. But when Michael appeared before Magistrate Fisher last Friday, he and the other accused were moved from the court to that of Sam Margai during proceedings before finally making their initial appearance before Magistrate Fisher.

Michael Chimildine, Felix

Rogers, Dawson Kamara and Collins Kamara were charged on three counts of conspiracy. They made their initial appearance before Magistrate Fisher last Friday 12th May and were discharged on Monday 15th May by the Magistrate on the ruling that the Special Court is not a prohibited place as was submitted by the defence team.

Chimildine was arrested on the 29th April by Sierra Leone police personnel stationed at the Special Court after a tip-off from by the

Mongolian contingent guarding the Court who apparently noticed him taking suspicious snapshots of the Special Court. He had reportedly taken snapshots of the security guard post and the entrance to the Special Court.

Chimildine is an ex-American soldier who claims to be in the country on evangelism. He claims he wants to open a 'Church of Freetown'. Unconfirmed reports say he met with the three Sierra Leoneans in Iraq recently.

Concord Times
Thursday, 18 May 2006

Sierra Leonean elected Special Court President

A Sierra Leonean, Justice George Gelaga King has been elected the new President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Justice George Gelaga King was elected Presiding Judge of the

Appeals Chamber, a post that makes him President of the Special Court for a period of one year. Justice King will succeed Justice Raja Fernando of Sri Lanka.

Cont. page 3

Sierra Leonean elected Special Court President

From page 1

whose term ends on 26 May.

Justice George Gelaga King has been President of the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and of Court of Appeal of the Gambia. He served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland from 1974 to 1978, and was at the same time Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to UNESCO. Between 1978 and 1980 he served as Si-

erra Leone's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Justice King taught law at the Sierra Leone Law School from 1990 to 2005. He is Chairman of both the Sierra Leone Law Journal and the Gambian National Council for Law Reporting, and was a member of the Sierra Leone Council of Legal Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He has been a Judge of the

Special Court for Sierra Leone since December 2002.

The Appeals Court Judges also selected Justice Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria as Vice-President. He will succeed Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

This is the first time in the history of the Special Court that an African has assumed the position of President of the court.

Concord Times
Thursday, 18 May 2006

Africa Never Knew Taylor ... a Global Threat?

Story: Tann Jalloh

affair - Ankamah, a celebrated analyst and prolific writer, recently made it his job to passionately explain the untold side of Charles Taylor's then flourishing infame, now his subsequent regret for playing politics the American way. In his widely read column - Ballfour's Beets in the New African magazine with virtually critical but very convincing analogies, he decided recently to look at the Taylor issue guardedly and passionately too. Ankamah, it would appear, share the ex-Liberian president's ire of betrayal and deceit demonstrated by Washington. This is because, according to Ballfour's Beets, Taylor worked closely with the US government, even during his days in the jungle. Incredible!! Also as one of the most uncompromising Pan-African writers of his time, he would gnash his teeth and climb to the tops of any citadel to tell the world that the ex-Liberia President, Taylor was never supposed to have been perceived a global threat but for a recent boomerang of the highly stealthy relationship he maintained with the United States' presidency prior to his arrest. Taylor remains to be dismissed as the new human or living threat to world peace after the US government stooped so low to have allowed its very trained mercenary, Osama bin Laden penetrate the most part of its security networks and crumbled its foundation in a 2001 September 11 attack. When early this month, I heard that European Union Foreign Ministers would meet on Taylor the 15th in Brussels, I realized powerful men in modern day politics of 'traditionalized democracy' like George Bush jr. and Blair etc have their equals in Africa. Charles Taylor was going to prove or almost proved one before his US machinated incarceration at the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Apparently

it is his lone strategy in successfully accomplishing the Washington D.C. task in the West African sub-Region that warranted such deduction being peddled by the West.

But how did some of us get to know that? But first why would Europe and the US government be so pessimistic about Taylor's possible acquittal: in essence judging him in the shadow as a true war crime convict? From every indication the issue of Taylor is now so irritating a foreign policy to handle that the security capability and capacity of most European countries could be questioned following symptoms of the who-should-take-a-convicted-Taylor, contagion of a fright.

Prior to the meeting, it was feared that the absence of any commitment from a specific state, the European Union should collectively agree that one of its member states would ultimately take Taylor if convicted. If no specific country could step forward after the meeting the onus would have to be on the Netherlands to accept a collective EU commitment as sufficient to move forward with transferring Taylor's trial to The Hague.

Imagine Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom although are currently in agreements with one or both of the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia to provide facilities for convicted persons to serve their sentences, they could hardly volunteer to keep Taylor. Austria and Sweden are particularly supposed to be the strong candidates because they also have similar agreements with the Special Court, but have failed to yield easily basking the flimsiest of excuses that these agreements have not been ratified.

Denmark have also joined Austria and Sweden in proffering various reasons against agreeing to accept Taylor in their countries.

including the lack of parliamentary approval, lack of resources, or the fact that they have shown a commitment to international justice in other ways. How does it feel to President Bush's USA and Tony Blair's Europe to have heard first world countries like Australia, Denmark and Sweden expressing fear to take Taylor on the grounds of lack of resources? Like Bush and Blair, I'm sure even Lotte Leicht, EU Director at Human Rights Watch is disappointed too at the deliberate lack of political commitment. But these are all feigning to present Taylor as Africa's product of a global human threat. However, Africa never knew Taylor... a global threat? When the US Bush embarked on coercing everybody, including the very respected African heads of state to help bring Taylor, the Special Court for Sierra Leone never complained of lack of funding. It actually had the support of Bush prior to Taylor's arrest. The Court enjoyed an interrupted financial support from the United States Government: Lans Gberie, one of Sierra Leone's finest writers, who followed keenly the activities of the Court since its inception once confirmed over US\$ 80 million must have been spent in less than three

years, including expatriate fees. It would seem the US government successfully hid behind the Special Court to get at Taylor and now takes pleasure in seeing him perish under the clutches of the Court. How come moving Taylor's trial outside Sierra Leone becomes a serious challenge for the Court and its donors: the USA Government?

Prior to his arrest, the US government did everything it could to deceive Europe and the world over that arresting Taylor would have put to an end all the fear of sub-Regional catastrophes that loomed. On February 24 last year, apparently after President Bush's aide, British Prime Minister, Tony Blair may have tricked Europe into believing that Taylor was the world's new living threat, we saw the European Parliament unanimously pass a resolution, after it has done so on several occasions, again calling on Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On the 11 May the U.S. Senate passed a certain May 4 House Resolution by unanimous consent, joining the call for Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. For me, it would appear the

desperation has been with the US government. Or was the European Parliament tricked into exhibiting such buoyancy instead of the UN? Interestingly not until the 24th of May 2005 when the United Nations Security Council underlined the importance of ensuring that all those who have been indicted by the Court appear before it, the US government of Bush presented Taylor as something else.

Again let me end my piece citing and emphasizing some of the relevant portions in Baffour's Beefs that interest me most. Fact is he enjoys long-standing career in journalism and the most part of which he dedicated to looking at politics, economic and social issues in Africa. He was also privy to have first engaged Taylor in interviews some ten years before his arrest. His piece quite recently on Taylor was so centrifugal to the extent that his honest personal opinion, though driven by some pan African sentiment, could not be far from the fact that the West has succeeded in presenting Africa and Africans heads of state as something else. But no matter how the West would want to present Taylor to the world, it is clear Africa never knew and never sees Taylor... a global threat?

New Vision
Thursday, 18 May 2006

Charles Taylor May Escape Execution



Charles Taylor
satisfied that a battle against
Contd. Page 2

By A Correspondent

The options that are open for ex-rebel leader Charles Taylor to save his life are few. But when the issue of Charles Taylor cropped up at the summit of ECOWAS Foreign Ministers that was recently convened in Monrovia, the Liberia capital, the general

assumption was that he may not be sentenced to death. The issue of Charles Taylor being arrested and detained by Special Court has been received by ECOWAS and the African Union as a blow to efforts of Africans to manage their affairs without external interference.. Some

ECOWAS executives view Taylor's detention as having been influenced by the big

powers such as the USA, the European Union and the IMF. But human rights activist are

Charles Taylor May Escape Execution

impunity in West Africa has been partly won.

Taylor, the ex-Liberian President is detained at the UN-backed special court in Freetown, while preliminary arrangements are being made for his trial on an 11-count charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The present Liberian President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson –Sirleaf while on a visit to Libya few days ago explained to the Libyan leader Colonel Muamar Gaddafi that “Charles Taylor has been sacrificed for the good of Liberia.”

This actually means that Liberia had no alternative but to hand over Taylor for trial at the special court, a court that has the mandate to indict and prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for the decade-long civil conflict in Sierra Leone.

The ex-Liberian President, who is being detained in the prison compound of the special court with Sierra Leonean war crime indictees such as Chief Hinga Norman of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), and General Issa Sesay of the rebel –RUF, has pleaded not guilty to all the 11-count charges against him.

Mrs. Ellen Johnson- Sirleaf and Gaddafi were two previous strong allies of Taylor at the initial stage of the Liberian conflict, before it made a spill over into Sierra Leone in 1991.

It may be recalled that the rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) which Taylor headed were trained and armed by the Libyans in the late 1980s while Mrs. Sirleaf made a remark over the BBC in support of the rebellion when she vowed to side with Taylor in pursuing the war even if it means destroying the Presidential Palace-the Executive Mansion.

Charles Taylor’s hopes that he may only obtain a fair trial in an African settings is easily bearing fruit with the appointment recently of a distinguished Sierra Leonean lawyer George Galega King to head the Special Court as President. Justice Galega King succeeds the Sri Lanka President of the Court Raja Fernando.

If an African heads the special Court, will there be chances for the ex-Liberian war Lord to have his way in prevailing on the Special Court not to transfer his trial to the UN war crimes Tribunal at The Hague, the Netherlands?

Indeed the vast difference between the special court and the UN Tribunal at The Hague is that while the former is operating on a temporary and limited mandate, the latter is a permanent structure with no limitations to its mandate.

What Charles Taylor is actually hoping to achieve from the entire trial is probably a limited sentence. But it is unlikely that such an anticipation will bear any fruits considering that the war crimes committed by Taylor are serious and complex to the extent that it will be difficult for the courts to exercise mercy.

At the special court Taylor may have the possibility to have access to his lawyers and the witnesses as well as family members. This will not be possible if the trials were to convene at another venue such as The Hague, in the Netherlands.

The question of whether Taylor is guilty, or not is left with the courts to decide. But a peculiar characteristics of the Charles Taylor burden is that over the years many people have been taking sides.

Associated Press
Thursday, 18 May 2006

American who took pictures of Sierra Leone war crimes court re-arrested

Former U.S. soldier accused of scoping out court

An American and two Sierra Leoneans who were cleared of conspiracy charges for taking pictures of Sierra Leone's war crimes court were re-arrested on new charges after just one day of freedom. Prosecutors had said the men gave the impression they were hatching an escape plan for a suspect held in the court complex.

Michael Chemidlin and Sierra Leoneans Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara were re-arrested Tuesday. They were charged with "conspiracy to engage in a purpose prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone," according to a statement read aloud in open court. The statement accused them of "inspecting the entire complex of the Special Court" when taking photos in late April.

Prosecutor Oladipo Robin Mason referred to "the issue of state security," but did not elaborate.

The men had been released Monday after a judge ruled that it was not against the law to take pictures of the Special Court -- the tribunal that holds former Liberian President Charles Taylor and is trying those accused of war crimes during Sierra Leone's war.

Prosecutors had said the men gave the impression they were taking the photographs in hatching a plan to help Taylor escape. Taylor, who escaped from a Massachusetts jail in 1985, is charged with funding rebels who burned down villages and hacked off people's limbs during the country's war.

Sierra Leone's treason laws prohibits photographing certain government installations but Chemidlin's lawyer argued that the U.N.-backed war crimes court -- considered international territory -- was not covered by the law.

Chemidlin, a former U.S. soldier, has said he is innocent.

The three men were refused bail and a hearing was set for Thursday. One Sierra Leonean who was arrested with the others at the beginning of May was not re-arrested.

The men were charged by a different court than the first court that dropped the charges against them.

Sun News Publishing

Wednesday, 17 May 2006

Gadhafi blasts Obasanjo over Taylor's hand over

Libyan leader, Moamer Gadhafi, has accused Nigeria of "betraying African solidarity" by agreeing to extradite former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who's now facing trial for war crimes in Sierra Leone.

"Taylor's arrest and detention is a betrayal of African solidarity," said Gadhafi, a close ally of Taylor, in a speech he delivered at a dinner honouring Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf during a weekend visit to Tripoli, reports a Monrovia daily on Tuesday.

Liberia's Heritage newspaper published the full text of Gadhafi's speech, in which the Libyan leader said Taylor, now 58, had "sacrificed himself for the sake of Liberia" when he "voluntarily gave up power ... ending a civil war that lasted 14 years".

Said he: "Things could have ended at this point, but to commit an act of aggression against him in his asylum and be transferred to a court in Sierra Leone, this was out of question when he gave up power.

"Our brother, President Olusegun Obasanjo, offered asylum to Taylor in Nigeria. Violating the right of political asylum is very dangerous matter. This is a serious precedent. It is far from African manners."

Taylor, after relinquishing power in August 2003, under intense international pressure, lived in a plush villa in Calabar, Cross River State until his hand over in March.

The Liberian president had bowed to international pressure when she asked Obasanjo to extradite Taylor, who was intercepted at the Nigerian border with Cameroon on March 29 during an attempt to flee his exile home.

He was immediately flown to Liberia, where he was arrested by the United Nations and then transferred to Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone, where he's facing trial on war crimes charges.

Liberian Observer

Wednesday, 17 May 2006

Gadhafi Backs Taylor

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, a strong backer of former warlord Charles Taylor, has expressed his opposition to the trial of Mr. Taylor on war crimes charges.

The Libyan strongman warned that Taylor's trial in neighboring Sierra Leone would be a "dangerous precedent" and called on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to take a positive step to prevent such a measure and ensure a peaceful and democratic political work in Liberia.

The Libyan leader made the remarks at the weekend when President Johnson-Sirleaf paid him her first visit at his invitation.

Taylor sought both training and material support from the Libyan leader to invade Liberia in December 1989 in a rebellion that was aimed at toppling former president Samuel Doe. The invasion soon snowballed into a full-blown war that spread across West Africa, especially neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea and later Cote d'Ivoire, leaving thousands of people dead.

After he became president in 1997, Taylor was later forced out of power in 2003 after rebels surrounded him in the capital, Monrovia. He accepted Nigeria's offer of asylum that ended last March with his arrest along the Cameroonian border where he had arrived to escape. Taylor is currently in prison in Sierra Leone awaiting prosecution on war crimes charges.

In his speech, Gaddafi told President Johnson-Sirleaf, "Please allow me a final remark. This remark is related to the situation of our friend " Taylor". A friend of yours and mine; he is our common friend, but you were beside him in Liberia more than I did."

Gaddafi said even though he did not sympathize with the internal policy of Charles Taylor, he nevertheless considered the indicted war criminal as a sacrificial lamb for the Liberian people. This is because, according to him, Taylor 'evoluntarily' gave up power on 11/8/2003, ending a civil war that lasted 14 years.

"Things could have ended at this point, but to commit an aggression against him in his asylum and be transferred to a court in Sierra Leone, was out of question when he gave up power," Gaddafi argued.

Meanwhile, many observers are not surprised at Gaddafi's latest remarks in favor of Taylor. "Maybe he's saying all these to prevent Taylor's trial because he doesn't want Taylor to confess his name at the trial," remarked James Gayflor, a civil servant.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 May 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Residents flee ethnic clashes in northern Liberian town

By Zoom Dosso

GANTA, Liberia, May 17, 2006 (AFP) - Thousands of residents fled Liberia's second largest commercial city of Ganta after hundreds of young men from the Mano ethnic group attacked homes of the rival Mandingos early Wednesday, an AFP reporter in the town witnessed. Armed with machetes, clubs and rocks and chanting 'we are ready for you Mandingos', the Mano youths invaded the main Mandingo residential areas at around 1:00 am (0100 GMT), attacking people and ordering them out of the town. Nohn Tehsohn-Nohn, mayor of Ganta, a commercial hub linking Liberian capital Monrovia with Guinea, estimated the militants to have numbered around 2,500. A doctor at the main hospital told AFP seven people had so far come for treatment of mainly lacerations and other minor injuries. "They beat me and took 3,000 Liberian dollars (about 75 US) from me," Adama Keita, a businessman from Mali, told AFP.

05/17/2006 06:30:23

Ghanaian peacekeepers deny any "sex-for-food" involvement

Source: Dpa English Date: May 17, 2006

Accra_(dpa) _ Ghanaian peacekeepers deployed with the United Nations Mission in **Liberia** (UNMIL) have denied any involvement in recently reported "sex-for-food" scandals, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) said on Wednesday. "Please we are very much concerned and we would like you to help us let the media back home know that we have nothing to do with such a scandal," a soldier told Ghanaian Foreign Minister Nana Akufo-Addo, who paid surprise visit to the troops in **Liberia**. Child welfare organization Save the Children has claimed that up to half of young girls in camps for displaced people, some of them as young as eight, regularly had sex with peacekeepers and aid workers in exchange for food and other goods.

05/17/2006 06:24:10

Zimbabwe to send six police officers for UN mission

HARARE, May 17, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Six Zimbabwean police officers are expected to leave the country for a United Nations peacekeeping mission in **Liberia** and Sudan, replacing the other six who returned home recently from a similar mission.

International Clips on West Africa

05/17/2006 11:29:13

Ivory Coast seen at crossroads ahead of election

ABIDJAN, May 17 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's fragile peace process is at a crossroads, with political leaders on the brink of laying down their arms but not yet willing to commit to elections, the International Crisis Group said on Wednesday. The Brussels-based think tank said the next few months would be crucial in the divided West African state, with its two rival factions still needing to agree on the key issues of disarmament and issuing identity papers before elections due by October.

Local Media – Newspapers

UN Envoy Says Sustainable Peace Depends on Economic Revival

(New Democrat)

- Speaking yesterday at the opening ceremony of the Central Bank of Liberia check-cashing center in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss said that the long-term stability of Liberia would depend on the revival of the economy and the creation of jobs. He added that the opening of the CBL payment center was a step in this direction.
- Constructed and equipped with funding from UNMIL, Mr. Doss described the dedication of the CBL cash payment center as a testimony of UNMIL's commitment to advance the restoration and consolidation of state authority in Liberia.

ECOWAS Introduces Travel Certificate for Member States

(The Analyst)

- Authorities of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced recently that as part of measures to promote free movement among its member states, ECOWAS had introduced an intra-regional travel certificate for the peoples of West Africa.

Chief Justice Raises Issue with UNMIL Official

(The News)

- Speaking during an assessment tour of court facilities in Gbarpolu County, Chief Justice Johnny Lewis criticized UNMIL Legal and Judicial System Support head Dr. Alfred Fofie for his failure to join assessment visits to courts in the country.
- He said that it was incumbent upon Dr. Fofie to be on all visits to the courts around the country since they are meant to inspect the level of quick impact work done on the courts by UNMIL and to identify areas that need support and improvement.

Newspaper Publishers Honor Fijian Peacekeeper

(Heritage and Informer)

- The publishers of *Heritage* and *The Informer*, Mohammed Kanneh and Dakollie Sumo, respectively along with the Senate Secretary Ndarbolor Singbe yesterday evening gowned departing UNMIL Fijian Police Sergeant Mitieli Mark Divuana as mark of honor for diligence to duty and humanitarian services to Liberians.

Libyan Leader Opposed to Taylor's Trial

(Daily Observer and National Chronicle)

- Speaking recently during President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's visit to Libya, Libyan leader Muammar Khadafi said that he was opposed to the trial of the former President Charles Taylor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, adding that it is a bad precedent and a disgrace to Africa.

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

President Urges Sector Ministries to Compile Roster on Youth

- Speaking at the graduation ceremony for over 700 ex-combatants in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf mandated the Ministries of Labour as well as Youth and Sports to develop a roster for young people who have completed training in different fields.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Gets US\$10,000 as Travel Allowance

- In a press interview yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio clarified that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf received US\$10,000 when she traveled to the United States recently to appear on a television show of American billionaire Oprah Winfrey. He added that the President took the money as her usual per diem for foreign trips.
- A local newspaper had reported that the President received US\$10,000 for the trip after stating that the trip was not being financed by the Government of Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Vigilantes Mount Road Blocks for Planned Armed Attackers

- A rural reporter Nyan Flomo said that teams of vigilante had spent the past night manning road blocks against a planned armed attack on Ganta city by unknown men. Rumours had spread that armed attack on the city Tuesday was being planned.
- Journalist Flomo said that local government officials used local radio stations to appeal to residents and the vigilantes to be calm as the rumours was being probed.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Ghana to Remain Engaged with Liberia

- During his visit with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the Executive Mansion yesterday, Ghanaian Foreign Minister Nana Akufo-Addo said that Ghana will remain engaged with Liberia in pursuit of its development agenda. He extended greetings from Ghanaian President John Kufuor to President Johnson-Sirleaf. President Johnson-Sirleaf requested Minister Akufo-Addo to convey her compliments to President Kufuor and Ghanaians for their commitment to peace in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Director Opposes Eviction of Hunters

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Director Augustine Toe said that he opposed the eviction of hunters from the forests of Lofa County because it violated the hunters' rights.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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.