



**Local News**

Pademba Prison to be Relocated / *New Vision* Page 3

Human Rights Council Demands Explanation / *Premier News* Page 4

**International News**

Pre-Trial Judge Requests Trial Chamber ... Proceedings in Absentia / *STL* Page 5

ICC Prosecutor Outlines ICoast Poll Unrest Probe Plans / *AFP* Page 6

# Pademba Prison to be relocated

By Aaron B. Lahai

The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Raymond Kabbia has told journalists that the Pademba Road maximum prison has to be relocated to Moyamba.

He said government has already secured land in that part of the country for the construction of spacious prison in a bid to solve the problem of overcrowding at the Pademba road maximum

prison. He said the decision is part of the restructuring programme.

He was speaking at the weekly press briefing in the conference hall of the Information ministry, Youyi Building in Freetown on

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Mr. Kabbia disclosed that parliament will soon pass a bill entitled "the Sierra Leone Correctional Service Act". He said the name of prison officers will be changed to correctional officers while prisoners will be called inmates.

He told the press that in the ministry's effort to empower inmates, the Prison Department has bought farm lands in Moyamba, Kenema and Mafanta. Power tillers and farm tools have been provided by JSDP to help in the cultivation of these lands, he said. He stated that vocational skills in carpentry, arts and craft weaving, tailoring and metal

works have also been embarked upon.

Minister Kabbia also disclosed that a show room to display the products from these training is under construction. Mr. Kabbia intimated them that about three hundred police officers are participating in peace keeping mission in Sudan's Dafur region, Somalia and Haiti with high performance rating. He said that the Sierra Leone Police Peace keeping Department in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping in New York is preparing another four hundred personnel for possible deployment in other trouble areas around the world.

## Human Rights Council Demands Explanation

**R**epeated adjournment of court cases and delay in trials were among issues raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as some of the problems leading to the civil war in Sierra Leone.

*By Alpha Bedoh Kamara*

In this regard, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has noted that the right to seek redress in the courts within a reasonable time is enshrined in Section 23(1) of the 1991 Constitution, which states; "whenever any person is charged with a criminal offence s/he shall, unless the charge is withdrawn, be afforded a fair hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial court established by law."

This section, according to the Chairperson of the Commission, Edward Sam, needs further clarification by the court.

This issue, among many others, was raised on Friday during the launching of the 'State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone' by the Commission.

"The interpretation of "Fair hearing within a reasonable time" as contained in Section 23(1) of the 1991 Constitution still needs further clarification by the court," he said.

"The Commission believes this lack of judicial guidance as to what constitutes 'Fair hearing within a reasonable time' contributes to lengthy delays in criminal trials across the country," he said.

He said access to justice continues to be a major challenge for many due to

lack of trust and confidence in the court system; bureaucracy, intimidation of victims and witnesses, inability to fulfill bail conditions, infrequent court sittings (especially in the regions), and consistent and persistent adjournments.

"Women, juveniles and people with disabilities are the most affected," he said. Edward Sam said the 2010 report is symbolic as it does not only give an inventory of the Government's guarantee of the fundamental human rights of all Sierra Leoneans as mandatory, but also highlights the significant contributions of the first set of Commissioners, whose first term ends in December.

"HRCSL commends the efforts of the government

*Continued Page 6*

## Human Rights Council Demands Explanation

*From Page 2*

for improving the right to health of women," he said, adding that with the introduction of the free healthcare for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five years in April 2010, there has been a reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates.

"However, an emerging issue hampering this initiative is the non-availability of appropriate and adequate drugs in various

health centers and the lack of medical personnel, including specialists to handle the increased number of patients utilizing the facilities," he said.

He also commended government's efforts in establishing the Youth Commission, but added that government should take active steps to ensure its full operation.

"Government should implement in full, the recommendations of the TRC report on youths," he said.

STL Press Release  
Monday, 17 October 2011



SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON

المحكمة الخاصة بلبنان

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**STL Media Advisory – Pre-Trial judge requests Trial Chamber to decide on proceedings in absentia**

Leidschendam, 17 October 2011-

The Pre-Trial Judge has asked the Trial Chamber to determine whether proceedings in absentia should be initiated in the case of Ayyash et al..

The Tribunal's rules state that if the accused have not been arrested within 30 calendar days of the public advertisement of an indictment, then the Pre-Trial Judge can request that the Trial Chamber initiate proceedings in absentia.

According to the Pre-Trial Judge's ruling, this period of public advertisement started at the latest on 15 September 2011 when a wanted poster displaying the pictures of the accused, their personal details and the counts against them were published in major Lebanese newspapers.

The Trial Chamber will now have to determine whether the required conditions have been met in order to start the proceedings in absentia whilst preserving the rights of the accused.

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(English/French)

## Agence France-Presse

Sunday, 16 October 2011

### ICC prosecutor outlines ICoast poll unrest probe plans

ABIDJAN — The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said up to six people will be probed for involvement in post-election atrocities in Ivory Coast.

Moreno-Ocampo, who arrived Friday pledging an "impartial" investigation, said three to six people would be investigated.

"But we don't know who they are," he added after meeting with President Alassane Ouattara, Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, former prime minister Charles Konan Banny -- who now heads a national reconciliation panel -- and Abidjan's civil and military prosecutors.

Judges at the ICC, based at The Hague, appointed Moreno-Ocampo to mount an inquiry into the violence that killed more than 3,000 people during a five-month standoff after last November's elections in the world's top cocoa grower.

They ruled on October 3 that there was evidence that both sides in the conflict committed war crimes and crimes against humanity -- supporters of now President Ouattara and fighters loyal to his political rival, longtime leader Laurent Gbagbo.

They said pro-Gbagbo forces hired some 4,500 mercenaries, including fighters from neighbouring Liberia, and armed them.

Gbagbo's troops also attacked UNOCI, the United Nations peace-keeping force in the Ivory Coast. Between 700 and 1,048 people were killed by pro-Gbagbo forces, according to figures given by the prosecutor's office.

Troops loyal to Ouattara are accused of attacking civilians in Abidjan and western Ivory Coast, particularly in the town of Duekoue, the judges said.

"The material indicates that pro-Ouattara forces targeted civilians who were perceived to support Laurent Gbagbo and the attacks were directed against specific ethnic communities," the judges had said.

"We'll be totally impartial," Moreno-Ocampo said Saturday, after meeting leading members of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party.

"We'll focus the investigation on the most odious crimes and the most responsible... to prevent violence and ensure Cote d'Ivoire to move ahead," he said, using the French name of the former French colony in west Africa.

Gbagbo refused to give up power after losing the elections to Ouattara.

Pro-Ouattara forces seized Gbagbo in April and has been under house arrest in the north of the country since.