SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



See photos from Saturday's intramural football match between FMU and Security in today's 'Special Court Supplement'. Photos from the match between Detention and the Rest of the Court will appear in tomorrow's 'Supplement'.

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:

Monday, 19 February 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.

Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

Martin Royston-Wright

Ext 7217

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Special Court for Sierra Leone

Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 16 February 2007

Special Court Receives €600,000 for Legacy From the European Commission

The European Commission has made a donation of €600,000 (\$787,000) to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to continue the Court's Victims Justice and Legacy Project.

The EC grant is part of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. Since the Project was started in January 2004, the EC has given more than €1.9 million to the project.

The Victims Justice and Legacy Project aims to provide a broader understanding of justice to the victims of Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. Through various sub-projects, the Special Court seeks to leave a legacy to Sierra Leone and to international criminal justice.

The main activities of the Project are conducted through the Witness and Victim Support Programme, the Grass Roots Awareness Campaign (Outreach), the Audio Visual Programme, the Intern and Pro-bono Support Programme, the Court Interpreters Professionalising and Training Programme, and the Library and Archives Development Programme.

The Project targets all areas of the Sierra Leone public and civil society, in particular victims and witnesses, ex-combatants, national grassroots organizations and community leaders. In the coming months it will begin programmes to inform the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia about the upcoming Special Court trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.

The Victims Justice and Legacy Project is part of the Court's overall legacy programme, which seeks to promote the rule of law, human rights, and international humanitarian law.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Ten indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

In Memoriam, Samuel Sesay Monday, 19 February 2007

The death is reported on Saturday of Samuel Sesay of Language Unit in the Court Management

Section. He had been an interpreter with the court for nearly three years. He is survived by a wife and two children. He has already been buried in Magburaka.

The Unit is in the process of putting together a purse for the bereaved family. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this purse can contact Brima Kelson Sesay (EXT 7167) or Mr Amadou-Gbongboh Serry (EXT 7280).

May His Soul Rest In Perfect Peace. Amen.

Standard Times Monday, 19 February 2007

The Special Court of Sierra eone, which has been battling all long time to raise money to pursue s objectives, has finally received a The European Commission has uropean Commission.

tart any programme the Special Court intends to undertake at anyme now while gazing around for any other financial windfall that may come its way in the next couple of weeks or months.

easonable amount of money from the made available to the court the sum of six hundred thousand Euhis amount can be used to kick ros, equivalent to seven hundred and eighty seven thousand dollar's

This amount of money, according to a press release from the Public Relation Office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is part of the EU grant of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

It would be recalled that the European Commission has contributed immensely to the survival of the Special Court project with more than one million nine hundred thousand Euros (€1.9M).

It is the focus of the Victims Justice and Legacy Project to provide a broader understanding of justice to the long civil conflict through several subprojects with the ambition of the Special Court to leave behind a legacy of justice to Sierra Leone.

It is speculated that activities of the project would be conducted through the Witness and Victim Support Programmes.

Special Court Receives \$787,000

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Victims Justice and Legacy Project. The EC grant is part of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. Since the Project was started in January 2004, the EC has given more than 1.9 million euros to the project.

The Victims Justice and Contal Page 2

. . . .

Special Court Receives •600,000

From Front Page

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Independent Observer Monday, 19 February 2007

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The Victims Justice and Legacy Project is part of the Court's overall legacy programme, which seeks to promote the rule of law, human rights, and international humanitarian law.

Awoko Monday, 19 February 2007

Special Court gets \$787,000 from EC

he UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has received a handsome donation of \$787,000 from the European Commission to continue its Victims Justice and Legacy project. According to the press release issued Saturday "The Victims Justice and Legacy Project aims to provide a broader

understanding of justice to the victims of Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict." As such "The main activities of the Project are conducted through the Witness and Victim Support Program, the Grass Roots Awareness Campaign (Outreach), the Audio Visual Program, the Intern and Pro-bono Support Program, the Court Interpreters Professionalising and Training Program, and the Library and Archives Development Program." The release named the

organs through which the activities are carried out as "the Witness and Victim Support Program. the Grass Roots Awareness Campaign (Outreach), the Audio Visual Program. the Intern and Probono Support Program. the Court Interpreters Professionalising and Training Program, and the Library and Archives Development Program."

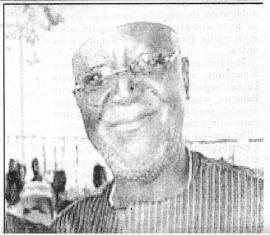
The release maintained that "the Special Court seeks to leave a legacy to Sierra Leone and to international criminal justice."

Concord Times Monday, 19 February 2007

Ibrahim Seibure, Abdul Karim Koroma & Olusegun Ogundeji

n a public release, reiterated Norman's Party (SELL) in Serverend Alfred coalition with the Peoples' for the coming Movement for Democratic presidential and Munda Sam Foray, Movement for Democratic presidential head of the Committee to Change (PMDC) against general elections. Elect Hinga Norman, the Sierra Leone Peoples'

Cont. page 3



Norman warns Kamajors against SLPP

From page 1

Rev. Foray urged all members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), the Kamajor Movement, their and families supporters both at home and abroad to put aside malice and their political, ethnic regional and barriers which until now has held them from aback the fulfilling dreams of the founders of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

"We urge all to "One for All and All for One" under the PMDC national coalition. We also urge all members of the CDF to continue conduct themselves with the dignity they have displayed since the arrest and detention of our leaders four ago." the years wrote release further.

Foray believes the PMDC coalition is bringing a change for political reality, come July 2007.

"We also believe that without doubt, what happening in Sierra Leone is not merely a wind of change but a political tsunami that will sweep across our beloved nation for a better future. Those who willing are work together as abecome a party to this change will be greatly rewarded by a grateful posterity for leading the way national reconciliation and redemption," stated.

The release also Chief confirmed Sam Hinga Norman,

Mr.Moinina Fofana and Mr. Alieu Musa Kondewa's resignation from the and their SLPP wholehearted and unconditional acceptance invitation to join the PMDC.

"The Chairmen Secretaryand Generals of the SLPP and PMDC are hereby advised accordingly. Finally, we trust that this release ends all and speculation all supersedes previous statements made by or on behalf of Chief Norman, Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa regards to their political status and affiliation for the 2007 general and presidential elections," release concluded.

Exclusive Monday, 19 February 2007

GUINEA CRISIS HITS SALONE

EVEN THE HONOURABLE Ernest Bai Koroma, leader of the All Peoples Congress (APC) stole our Editorial last week and declared to the BBC's Komlan Dumoh of Network Africa Breakfast show that when ever Guinea 'sneezes Sierra Leone catches cold.'

THE GUINEA THREAT

Already, Guineans in their hordes have been filtering into Sierra Leone for refuge as General Lansana Conte's slamming of a Martial Law on Guinea; is currently making that country a hot spot for not only Conte, but for the nation.

CONTE'S TIME'S UP!

The concern raised by Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma was very much in place because we have century old socio-economic and cultural ties with Guinea and therefore any situation of unrest in that country is bound to affect Sierra Leone,

SALONE'S CONCERN

THIS IS THE kind of civilize and patriotic politics we want to see in this country. That Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma would come out and tell the world that we (Sierra Leoneans) should not sit by complacently and watch Guinea engulfed in flames, is indicative of his concern for the safety and security of this nation. KABBAH CAN DO!

IF THERE IS anybody who can bring pressure to bear upon or give visionary advice to President Lansana Conte; to do what is required of him in order to bring the situation in that country under control, it is HE President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

THIS IS BECAUSE this paper knows fully well that Kabbah and Conte are constantly on the telephone line. These two Heads of State do not need any interpreter because they speak the Soso language."

SIAKA STEVENS, MOMOH, STRASSER

PRESIDENT Kabbah, The Exclusive learnt, invited his now unpopular elder brother; President Lansana Conte, to come and cool off here.

Some interpretations are that he wants Kabbah to pay back Guinea for hosting Siaka Stevens, Capt Valentine Strasser and his very self (Tejan Kabbah) when he was ousted by the RUF/AFRC.

LAST WORD!

WE IN SIERRA LEONE in our precarious status; as the President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalist (SLAJ), Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo told this paper, could not sit by and complacently watch a big and giant neighbour engulfed by fire.

Patriotic Vanguard website

Saturday, 17 February 2007

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id article=1020

Hinga Norman Confirms PMDC Membership, Blasts Berewa

- Saturday 17 February 2007.

PRESS RELEASE FROM CHIEF HINGA NORMAN

To: All Directors, Administrators, Commanders, Initiators & Members of the Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces (CDF); Chairman and Secretary General, Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP); Chairman and Secretary General, People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) National & International Media; Family, Friends and Well Wishers.

Medical Report

We are pleased to report that Chief Sam Hinga Norman successfully underwent hip surgery at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal on Thursday 8 February 2007 and is recovering well.

Mr. Norman arrived in Senegal on Wednesday 17 January in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SC-SL) amidst controversy over the method of his removal from Sierra Leone and the status of his detention in Senegal. He was later transferred to military hospital following international outcry from his family, supporters and human rights groups in Senegal.

In this regard, we wish to express sincere appreciations to all those who registered their voices in support of Chief Norman. In particular, we wish to thank His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, former British High Commissioner, Chief Peter Penfold, the office of the Prime Minister of Senegal and our colleagues in the Senegalese human rights movement. We also thank national and international media including Omaru Fofana of the BBC, Dr. Sylvia Blyden of Awareness Times, Gibril Koroma of the Patriotic Vanguard and Rev. Kabs Kanu of Cocorioko for their extra vigilance in this matter. The Norman family also extends their kindest appreciation to Professor Abdul Karim Bangura and Mwalim Sami Gandi-Gorgla of the Sierra Leone Working Group for coordinating our activities in Senegal. Lastly but not least, we express our thanks to the offices of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Detention, SC-SL, for their assistance and cooperation.

Statement on Political Status

The Committee to Elect Hinga Norman wishes to inform the public at home and abroad that following a series of face-to-face meetings between Chief Hinga Norman, Mr. Moinina Fofana and Dr. Alieu Kondewa representing the CDF and Mr. Charles Francis Margai and Mr. Ansu Lansana representing the PMDC, both sides have come to an agreement to work together as a team to redeem Sierra Leone from bad governance through the 2007 presidential and general elections. This agreement was reached without any reservations or pre-conditions. Prior to the recent Trans-Atlantic Tour led by Mr. Margai, a joint committee representing both the PMDC and the CDF met several times to discuss matters of mutual interest to both groups with respect to the 2007 elections.

The recommendations of the joint committee under the heading of the Indianapolis Accord were presented to both Mr. Norman and Mr. Margai for further consultations with their respective constituencies at home and abroad. Following Mr. Margai's return from the Trans-Atlantic sensitization tour, a series of meetings were held between the PMDC and the CDF in Sierra Leone. From these meetings, a formal invitation was extended to the CDF to join the PMDC in an effort to create a broad-based national coalition in the mutual interest of ushering in good governance in our beloved Sierra Leone.

On this note, we congratulate all the participants in the PMDC coalition for their vision and courage to set aside personal interest towards a common national agenda. We believe this to be a space-time

continuum of the wind of change that is once again blowing across our motherland. And as British Prime Minister, Harold McMillan, correctly observed in his famous Wind of Change addresses in Accra and Cape Town some forty-seven years ago, "The wind of change is blowing through this continent. Whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact." Thus, the change the PMDC coalition is bringing is a political reality and a fact of life for us to experience come July 2007. It is also a fact of positive nation building as well as a fact of individual self-actualization for all Sierra Leoneans.

We also believe that without a doubt, what is happening in Sierra Leone is not merely a wind of change but a political tsunami that will sweep across our beloved nation for a better future. Those who are willing to become a part of this change will be greatly rewarded by a grateful posterity for leading the way to national reconciliation and redemption. So we are hopeful that many will follow the lead of the CDF and be a part of the movement for a positive change in our nation.

Therefore, we urge all members of the CDF and the Kamajor Movement, their families and supporters both at home and abroad to lay aside all malice and the political, ethnic and regional barriers which have until now held us back from fulfilling the dreams of the founders of our Republic. We urge all to work together as "One for All and All for One" under the national PMDC coalition. We also urge all members of the CDF to continue to conduct themselves with the dignity they have displayed since the arrest and detention of our leaders four years ago.

We refuse to believe that:

- ·Sierra Leoneans in their collective wisdom can only associate themselves with one or two political parties along ethnic and regional lines;
- •There is no other choice for our people especially of the South and the East with which to exercise their political freedom of association.

Fellow Sierra Leoneans, we believe that in July 2007 there is a clear and convincing choice and a chance for all Sierra Leoneans for a positive political change in the country. The PMDC presents such a choice for our people and our nation.

In this regard we, first and foremost, appeal to members of the CDF and the Kamajor Movement to register in the tens of thousands when registration opens on the 26th of this month and to give their unequivocal support to the PMDC in July. This is our chance to rebuild our nation and to reclaim her place in the international community once again as the Athens of West Africa. By so doing, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood and sisterhood." With this hope, we as one people and one nation and with God's help will be able to transform Sierra Leone from the 176th poorest nation in the world into a shining ray of hope for posterity and ourselves. This is our reasonable call of service for the land that we love: Our Sierra Leone.

With regards to the recent Concord Times interview with Vice President Solomon Berewa who blamed members of the Kamajor Movement for the betrayal of Chief Hinga Norman and his colleagues, Kamajors are hereby advised without exception that no contention exists between members of the movement and leaders of the CDF. Indeed, Chief Norman, Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa retain their strictest confidence and admiration for the Kamajors including those who may have testified for the prosecution in the trial of the CDF leaders.

It is also to be recalled that it was Mr. Berewa who negotiated for the defective and deceptive Lome Accord which falsely granted "free and absolute pardon" to the CDF only for their leaders to be arrested and tried for war crimes. It was also Mr. Berewa who, as Attorney General, negotiated for the special court without provision for the people who twice took up arms to defend the SLPP government, in particular, and the nation as a whole. It is, therefore, inconceivable and highly reprehensible that the people who are the victims of the recklessness and ingratitude of Mr. Berewa's government are now being blamed for the incarceration of their leaders for doing exactly what the government hired them to do. History and posterity owe much gratitude to each and every Kamajor for their selflessness. God, in turn, will pay a just recompense to those who betrayed their sacrifice for the cause of our beloved country.

Conclusion

This release confirms the previous Press Release signed by Chief Sam Hinga Norman of Valunia Chiefdom, Speaker Moinina Fofana of Nongowa-Bullom Chiefdom and Dr. Alieu Musa Kondewa of Bumpe-Ngao Chiefdom on 11 January 2007 of their intent to join the PMDC. This release also serves as a formal notice of their resignation from the SLPP and their wholehearted and unconditional acceptance of the invitation to join the PMDC. The Chairmen and Secretary Generals of the SLPP and PMDC are hereby advised accordingly. Finally, we trust that this release ends all speculation and supersedes all previous statements made by or on behalf of Chief Norman, Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa with regards to their political status and affiliation for the 2007 general and presidential elections. God bless all. God bless Sierra Leone.

*** End of Release ***

Rev. Alfred Munda SamForay Committee to Elect Hinga Norman & Chairman, Indiana Chapter, PMDC-North America. United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

UN Envoy Lauds Debt Relief Deals Reached At Liberia Meeting

UN News Service (New York) - February 17, 2007 - The United Nations envoy to Liberia today said "real progress" had been made this week in dealing with the impoverished country's almost \$4 billion debt, but acknowledged that major challenges remain in rebuilding, particularly in the security sector and in creating jobs, following 14 years of brutal civil war.

International Clips on West Africa Sierra Leone link suspected, confirmed

By James B. Meadow,

Rocky Mountain News - February 17, 2007 - When Landri Taylor was 20, he became interested in tracing his people. Of course, when he was 20, he also met Alex Haley. The author of Roots was teaching at the University of California at Berkeley - where Taylor was a student.

<u>Local Media – Star Radio</u> (News culled from website at 11:00 am)

Bryant's Prosecution Is Imminent as Government Prepares Charge Sheet

- The Liberian Government said a charged sheet has been prepared in the ongoing corruption probe involving former transitional chairman, Gyude Bryant.
- The Information Minister-designate, Laurence Bropleh, could not establish as to the appropriate charges brought against the former transitional Chairman.
- Minister Bropleh also said Former House Speaker Edwin Snowe is implicated in so many deeds as reflected by the ECOWAS Audit report.
- He said the investigations were ongoing to determine the next action.
- He repeated that government is poised to prosecute people who abused public trust. (Also reported on Radio Veritas)

Notorious Rapist Re-arrested in Bomi

- Bomi County's notorious criminal who broke jail nearly one month ago has been rearrested.
- According to the Superintendent of Bomi, Varney Gangarmah was re-arrested between Sinje and Medina in Grand Cape Mount County.
- Superintendent Mohammed Massaley told Star Radio Gangarmah was re-arrested by women and children while trying to cross the border to Sierra Leone.
- Superintendent Massaley said Gangarmah initially gave a false name to those who confronted him but was soon recognized and held hostage.
- Gangarmah was convicted to ten years imprisonment by the Circuit Court in Tubmanburg but broke jail along with six others.

He was convicted for raping up to fifty women in Bomi County.

(Also reported on ELBS)

- The United States Agency for International Development has made a commitment to help renovate facilities at the Roberts International Airport.
- USAID made known the commitment during the signing of the Open Skies Agreement, which will see US airlines begin direct flight to Liberia.
- Liberia's Transport Minister Jeremiah Sulunteh said USAID has promised to provide US\$3.1 million for the renovation work.
 Minister Sulunteh told Star Radio the World Bank has also made a commitment of US\$500,000.
- The Transport Minister said the money would cover renovation works that will meet minimum international requirements for major airlines to land at the RIA. According Minister Sulunteh, commitments were also made by partners to invest in the country's land and rail transport system.
 - Also, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Donald Booth has described the signing of the Open Skies Agreement as a big investment boost for Liberia.

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

02/15/2007 20:09:50

Momentum builds on relief for Liberia's 3.7-billion-dollar debt

Washington_(dpa) _ Momentum to help wipe out Liberia's growing international debt built this week in Washington, with the United States, Germany and Britain leading the way, a World Bank official said Thursday.

International Clips on West Africa

AP 02/16/2007 08:15:31

Two employees of Dutch company detained in Netherlands in Ivory Coast toxic waste case

TOBY STERLING

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands_Two employees of an Amsterdam waste disposal company have been detained for questioning in a criminal investigation related to the dumping of toxic waste in Ivory Coast last year, the national prosecutor's office said Friday. Spokeswoman Valentine Hoen said prosecutors have also issued an arrest warrant for the captain of the "Probo Koala", the ship that discharged waste in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

<u>Local Media – Newspaper</u>

Speaker Snowe Finally Resigns Following A Prolonged Leadership Crisis

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

- After a rather prolonged leadership and constitutional crisis within the House of Representatives, Mr. Edwin Snowe has finally tendered in his resignation as Speaker.
 Mr. Snowe told a news conference yesterday that he resigned to uphold the rule of law and respect the judgment of the Supreme Court.
- Mr. Snowe's resignation came after the Supreme Court ruled in his favor in the leadership crisis by ordering a return to the status quo, which meant retaining Mr. Snowe as Speaker until the leadership question was resolved.
- He had initially refused to join the majority of his colleagues sitting in Virginia, later agreeing to join them, but reneged on his promise on the grounds that members of his constituency prevented him. But some critics argued that the action by his constituents was "staged-managed".

Germany Join Debt Waiver Spree

(New Democrat)

 Following U.S. President George Bush's call on donor countries to join the U.S. in cancelling Liberia's debt, Germany has announced it is wiping the entire US\$230 million debt Liberia owed to Germany. • Germany's announcement came a day after Washington said it would cancel 100 percent (US\$391 million) of the bilateral debt owed by Liberia.

<u>Local Media – Radio Veritas</u> (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

South Korean Postal Service Empowers Liberian Posts

- The South Korean Postal Service through the UNDP yesterday donated to its Liberian counterpart, some equipment including two mail vans, 10 parcel scales and three large bag scales valued at US\$40,000.
- Mr. George Gould of the UNDP said that additional equipment would arrive in the Country today, Friday.
- Post and Telecommunications Minister Jackson Doe lauded the South Koreans and said that the equipment would help salvage the enormous logistical challenges facing his Ministry.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Amnesty International Releases Research Findings on Liberian Crises

- In its research into the Liberian civil crises, Amnesty International said that warcrimes and crimes against humanity were committed by all parties to the conflict.
- Titled, "Liberia: Time for Truth, Justice and Reparation for Liberia's Victims", the research observed that all the parties committed heinous crimes during the war in which more than 20,000 child soldiers were used to carry out rape, torture, massacres and other crimes, and recommended the need to develop a comprehensive action plan to address the violations and strengthen the judicial system to try alleged perpetrators.
- Meanwhile, Amnesty's West African Team Researcher, Madam Tania Bernath called for an end to impunity in Liberia by prosecuting people who allegedly committed crimes during the war.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

BBC

Sunday, 18 February 2007 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6374393.stm

Guinea curfew cut as unrest eases

The authorities in Guinea have reduced the hours of a curfew imposed because of violent anti-government protests.

A statement from the army, broadcast on state TV and radio, said the decision was a response to the calmer situation.

The curfew will now run from 1800 to 0600, a reduction of six hours. It was introduced last The curfew has been in place since last week after President Lansana Conte imposed martial law.



Monday

More than 100 people have been killed in clashes with the Guinean security forces amid protests against Mr Conte.

The unrest began after union leaders called a general strike to try to force Mr Conte to resign.

They want the president to relinquish his near-absolute power, saying he is too ill and too old to run the country.

Alleged abuses

Army chief of staff Gen Kerfala Camara said the hours of the curfew would be reduced starting from Monday, as a result of the "discipline observed" by Guinea's people.

Under martial law, public gatherings are banned and the security forces have the power to carry out random searches.

Union leaders in Guinea had said on Saturday they would not enter talks with the government until emergency powers imposed last Monday were relaxed.

It remained unclear on Sunday whether the easing of the curfew would be enough to meet their demands.

SENEGAL GUINEA Conakry IVORY COAST Ocean

Opposition leaders and human rights groups say hundreds of protesters have been arrested over the past few days.

They have also accused Guinea's security forces of firing on unarmed crowds and raping civilians.

The African Union (AU) passed a resolution on Friday condemning what it called the authorities' excessive use of force and calling for an independent inquiry.

The US has also condemned the imposition of martial law and the civilian deaths, while France, the former colonial power, has urged Mr Conte to negotiate a political settlement.

Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday added his voice, appealing for "respect for human and civil rights" in Guinea and a return to negotiations.

The Guinean government says it has ordered an inquiry into alleged abuses.

West African leaders held talks with Mr Conte at the weekend as they sought to find a solution to the impasse.

Guinea is seen as a potential flashpoint in a volatile region because it borders Sierra Leone and Liberia, which are both emerging from a decade of conflict.

Special Court Supplement Intramural Football Match, Saturday 17 February 2007 Game 1: FMU 2, Security 1











































