

**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:**

Thursday, 19 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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## Special Court Get New Judge

Justice Richard Lussick of Samoa has been elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II. He succeeds Justice Teresa Doherty,

who ended her one-year term as Presiding Judge on 17 January. Pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure

and Evidence, the Presiding Judge of each Trial Chamber shall be elected for a

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## Special Court Get New Judge

*From front page*

renewable term of one year. However, it has been the general practice of both Trial Chambers to rotate the position of the Presiding Judge at the end of each one-year term.

Justice Richard Lussick was called to the bar in 1973. He worked as a barrister in private practice in Australia from 1973-1986. From 1986-1987 he served as Parliamentary Counsel in the Office of the Attorney-General in Samoa. He became a Judge in 1987 and has held a wide variety of positions within the Samoan judiciary, including Acting Chief Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Acting President of the Land & Titles Court, Supreme Court Judge, Chairman of the Public Service Appeals Board, District Court Judge, and Coroner. From 1995-2000 he served as Chief Justice of the Republic of Kiribati. He is a past Vice President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association.

Trial Chamber II, consisting of Justice Lussick, Justice Doherty and Justice Julia Sebutinde, is hearing evidence in the trial of the three AFRC accused (Brima, Kamara and Kanu). That trial started on 7 March 2005. The Prosecution concluded its case on 21 November 2005.

Justice Lussick was appointed to the Special Court by the Government of Sierra Leone.

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# Kabbah's subpoena still sensitive at Special Court

Story:  
Tanu  
Jalloh

Lead defense counsel for the first accused, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, in the ongoing Civil Defense Forces (CDF) trial at the Special Court, Dr. Bubuake Jabbie yesterday noted they were very sensitive as to the requirement of President Kabba's subpoena given the fact that the prosecution would want to know the order of witnesses who start testifying Friday.

"Pending the subpoena motion, the second witness to testify after our client, Chief Hinga Norman,

will be President Kabbah. Former Vice President Albert Joe Dembi might only come in to testify after the former when there is problem with the subpoena," he suggested to the Status Conference adding that the motion be dealt with in favorable time.

Presiding Judge, Justice Pierre Boutet, refused to assure the defense team for the first accused of its request: "but pending the outcome of the arguments on Thursday of the said subject, it is highly unlikely that the subpoena motion would have to be ad-



*Kabbah - will he appear  
before the court?*

dressed immediately. It would likely be next week."

The panel of judges also made it clear that the defense team for the first accused, Chief Norman, who automatically becomes the court's witness when he starts giving testimonies on Friday, would not be engaged by

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# Kabbah's subpoena still sensitive at Special Court

*From page 1*

the former.

"This means the defense team would not engage him while he gives evidence in court," says Justice Boutet.

While, prosecuting counsels have requested for a summary of Norman's testimony before he starts giving testimonies in court, lead defense counsel, Dr. Jabbe also confirmed they experienced some constraints in connection with their client. According to him,

they've endeavored to elicit some information from the said testimony but encountered constraints.

Meanwhile, up till press time, the prosecution team does not know what Norman would be testifying about and would need to get some indications as to what he testifies about so that they can avoid undue adjournments.

Hearings start on Friday to be preceded by arguments in justification of President Kabbah's subpoena.

## Moinina Fofanah and Aliou Kondewa break silence today

By Jimmy Milton

**T**wo of the Civil  
Justice Forum  
CJF's Special  
Court judges, Moinina  
Fofanah and Aliou  
Kondewa, will today break  
their silence when making  
opening statements at the  
Court's Trial Chamber I.

In their statements, they  
are expected to defend  
themselves against the eight  
counts they are charged with.  
These include unlawful  
killings, physical violence,  
looting and burning,  
terrorising the civilian  
population and collective

punishments and the use of  
child soldiers.

In a status conference held  
yesterday at the Court, lawyer  
for the second accused Mr  
Michael Pestman said they  
would only need 15 minutes for  
their opening statements while  
counsel for the third accused  
Aliou Kondewa is yet to  
indicate a time for their  
statements.

The first accused, San Hinga  
Norman will not be allowed to  
make an opening statement as  
he had already done that, so  
also are his lawyers.

The presiding judge Pierre  
*Contd. Page 2*

## Moinina Fofanah and Aliou Kondewa break silence today

**From Front Page**  
Boutet asked whether Mr.  
Norman still maintained his  
position which was to testify  
in his own defence. To this,  
Dr. Bu-Buakei said, "yes"  
and that in the operation of

certain relevant rules, he  
should be the first to testify.  
The Defence Lawyers were  
advised that they should not  
visit the accused when he's  
being led in evidence until  
after cross-examinations

Exclusive  
19 January 2006

19 JAN 2006 09:00

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# At Special Court Today..

# Norman To Throw Bombshell

Charles Margai

Hinga Norman

**By John Momo-Kaizolu**  
The ex-National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Force (CDF) Chief Sam Hinga Norman is

expected to make a preliminary appearance to defend himself at the UN-backed Spe-

cial Court for Sierra Leone today. Sources close to the CDF War Crimes in-

dictee, intimated this press that Mr Norman would likely open cans of worms that could

well be stunning to this nation. "There are a lot of people in high places who will definitely be

embarrassed by Mr Norman's testimony. But in the interest of justice

*Contd. page 2*

tion.

## Norman To Throw Bombshell

*From front page*

and fair play, it is altogether important that their role in the war, which has continued to be shrouded in secrecy be exposed," our source said.

Prior to his appearance, Chief Norman recently issued press statements in which he clarified to the public the reasons why he feels that his continued detention by the government of Sierra Leone was illegal.

According to Chief Norman, a blanket amnesty was to be granted to all warring factions in the Sierra Leone's conflict under the terms and agreement of the Lome Peace Accord signed in the Togolese capital by the President of Sierra Leone Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and Mr. Foday Saybana Sankoh for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone.

The ex-CDF leader maintained that the blanket amnesty from prosecution, arrest and detention of was meant to cover ex-combatants of the AFRC, the RUF and the CDF. He added that he will alert the international community to this provision in the Lome Accord, especially those who acted as moral guarantors to the Accord including Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, UK, the USA and representatives of the United Nations.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman stressed that he was relaying the message to the minority leader of Parliament, Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma because after the signing of Lome Accord, it was promulgated into law by a parliamentary Act.

He pointed out that his continued detention is a flagrant violation of those sacred provisions of the Lome Peace Accord.

The trial of the CDF leader is expected to attract a large audience because, he has of late been a controversial political figure due to his declarations of political alliance with the leader of the proposed Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) Mr. Charles F. Margai.

# Coup plot? Curfew imposed?

*By Sayoh Kamara*  
Very reliable sources from State Lodge and the office of the Inspector-General of Police including several senior citizens in the country

last evening, debunked rumours that have been flying around like flies that because of a pending coup, a curfew was imposed on certain parts of the city,

which in essence restricted the movement of citizens in the alleged affected areas. Rumours have been going out and about for the past two to three days that the

Wilberforce Military Barracks and its immediate surroundings were no go areas after 7.00pm and that people were not even allowed to

walk in that area. This rumours came following the threat by Special Court detainee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and the recent arrest of Mr. Omre Golley

on allegations of "destabilising the state". When Awareness Times contacted the source from State Lodge, he said the

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## Coup plot? Curfew imposed?

*From front page*  
rumours are the work of "certain unscrupulous people who are hell bent on seeing the peaceful state of this country derailed." Asked whether government was actually down-playing the claim, the source questioned instead, "How can this government down-play something that is hinged on national security?" He even went further to question the rationale of imposing a

curfew on a small area when there is a security threat. "See how funny the whole thing is appearing. Can you imagine this government at this point in time imposing a curfew on a small area, especially so a Military Barracks?" He enquired. Most residents of Wilberforce Barracks who were contacted yesterday evening also denied to Awareness Times that a curfew was in place over

the Barracks. Musu Kamara said, "I am only coming to know of this through you. Infact I came home last night very late from a party at Murray Town Village." The source from the IG's office noted that as far as the police are concerned, "there is no cause for alarm. Everything in terms of security is in place and areas are calm and quiet," he assured Awareness Times.



**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 18 Jan 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Liberia places border with ICoast under surveillance**

MONROVIA, Jan 18, 2006 (AFP) - The UN mission in Liberia has placed the border with Ivory Coast under surveillance fearing the unrest there could spill over and spoil the fragile peace in Liberia, the UN chief said Wednesday.

"We are aware of the growing tension in (Ivory Coast) ... and our forces are monitoring the situation along the border with Ivory Coast very closely," UNMIL head Alan Doss said. "We have sent a special team down there today to see if there is need to put additional forces into place to strengthen the monitoring of the border," Doss, heading a 15,000-strong peacekeeping force in Liberia, told a news conference.

**Text of report by Ghanaian independent TV3 on 17 January** (Source: BBC Monitoring Africa )

**Defeated Liberian candidate Weah says will not join government if asked**

[Presenter] The Congress for Democratic Change [CDC] presidential candidate in Liberia election last year, George Weah, says he will not work for the new government if offered a position. He explains that as a strong political opponent, he would want to be a credible opposition to help promote a positive image of Liberia.

**European Commission gives Liberia 68 mln euros for electricity, water**

MONROVIA, Jan 18, 2006 (AFP) - The European Commission has given the new Liberian government 80 million dollars (68.4 million euros) to start pumping water and bring electricity to the war ravaged West African country. The money will also go towards education, development of the country's counties and humanitarian needs, European Union official Serge Christiane told a news conference late Tuesday.

**U.S. to help Liberia's new president fight graft**

By Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA, Jan 18 (Reuters) - The United States intends to help Liberia's new President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf fight corruption, a U.S. official said on Wednesday. Johnson-Sirleaf, a former World Bank economist who took office on Monday as Africa's first elected woman president, has vowed to break with her war-scarred country's history of graft and violence. She said she would stand by a donor-backed programme to oversee state spending known as the Governance and Economic Management Programme (GEMAP). Donors had threatened to freeze aid unless GEMAP was adopted.

"The important thing is to make GEMAP strong and to build management systems to attract investments," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told Reuters late on Tuesday. The U.S. government has asked Congress to approve \$250 million

for the coming year and the European Union has increased its aid budget to 100 million euros (\$121.3 million) over the next three years.

## **New Liberian President Must Quickly Make Good on Anti-Corruption Pledge**

Berlin, Jan 17, 2006 (Transparency International/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President-elect of Liberia, takes office today on a solid anti-corruption platform, promising a wave of change for a country long plagued by a culture of corruption with impunity.

**The Wall Street Journal** 18 January 2006

### **Redemption Song**

(REVIEW & OUTLOOK Editorial)

Only after two rebel armies laid siege to Monrovia in 2003 was Mr. Taylor finally dislodged from power. The Bush Administration has since pumped some \$750 million into Liberia. Whether such a sum will bring the broken country to its feet remains to be seen, and much will depend on the probity and prudence of the new president. As with so many other African leaders, Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf has come to power singing the redemption song. We hope she understands it's a song of freedom.

**BBC** Last Updated: Wednesday, 18 January 2006, 00:01 GMT

### **New Liberia leader hails children**

By Elizabeth Blunt, BBC News, Monrovia

Liberia's new President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has ended official festivities for her inauguration with a massive children's party in the garden of her official residence.

**The Boston Globe** January 17, 2006

### **Liberia's break with the past**

By Steve Radelet and Jeremy Weinstein

ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF'S inauguration as the president of Liberia marks a watershed in the country's tumultuous history. The United States must continue its crucial role in the demobilization of combatants and commit to long-term rebuilding of Liberia's police and army. The administration should support rapid and comprehensive forgiveness of Liberia's debts, which were mainly undertaken and wasted by the rapacious Doe government. Perhaps most urgent, Congress should approve supplemental funding of \$50 million to \$100 million to support the new government. These funds would build critical infrastructure, put kids back into schools, and continue vital training for security forces. It would give Liberians their best chance of securing peace and basic freedoms.

**English General News** 18 January 2006

### **Growing Chinese, Indian clout to be key topic of annual Davos meeting**

Among the government leaders to attend will be Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, sworn in this week.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

**BBC** Last Updated: Wednesday, 18 January 2006, 13:49 GMT

### **UN troops flee Ivory Coast town**

Bangladeshi United Nations peacekeepers have pulled out of a camp in western Ivory Coast after clashing with supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo.

Four people are reported to have been killed when a UN base in Guiglo, 300km (187 miles) from Abidjan, was attacked. France has called for calm in towns and cities in the government-controlled south after three days of protests. Gbagbo supporters are angry at international mediators wanting to dissolve the pro-Gbagbo parliament.

VOA 18 January 2006

## **UN Says Gbagbo Supporters Orchestrating Riots in Ivory Coast**

By Peter Heinlein, United Nations

*A senior United Nations official has accused the government of Ivory Coast of orchestrating violent anti-U.N. protests. The Security Council held urgent consultations to discuss the mounting unrest in the west African nation.*

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **European Union Supports Lifting of UN Sanctions on Liberia**

*(The Inquirer)*

- Special Representative of the Presidency of the European Union (EU) Hans Dahlgren told journalists in Monrovia yesterday that the EU strongly supports the goal of lifting UN sanctions on Liberia's diamond and timber.

#### **Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Criticizes UNMIL**

*(The Inquirer)*

- In its 2005 situation report, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) accused UNMIL of engaging in human rights abuse and sexual exploitation.

#### **Taylor's Issue Is Not Priority for Liberia Says U.S. Secretary of State**

*(The Analyst)*

- Speaking to Star Radio in Monrovia on Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that the issue of former President Charles Taylor should not be a major concern, saying that Liberians must concentrate on reconstruction and the maintenance of their young democracy.

#### **U.S. First Lady Confirms U.S. Commitment to Liberia's Reconstruction**

*(Heritage)*

- Following her participation in the inauguration of Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf, United States First Lady, Laura Bush, confirmed that the U.S. remained a partner of the new government in the rebuilding of the nation.

#### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Sets Targets**

*(New Democrat)*

- The new government will seek a public-private partnership with the goal of attracting US\$1 billion in foreign direct investment that will identify key objectives and deliverables, forge a reconstruction plan to relieve Liberia of a US\$3.2 billion debt burden and restore electricity to Monrovia as a part of the first 150 days targets, President Johnson-Sirleaf said in her inaugural address on Monday.

#### **UN Envoy Expresses Hope for Stability in Liberia**

*(New Democrat)*

- Speaking in a *New Democrat* interview recently, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss allayed fears that Liberia could slide back into chaos through a rebel incursion.

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

### **United States Navy Ship Rescues Ailing Ghanaian Fishing Vessel**

- Addressing journalists upon their arrival to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, United States Navy Captain Tom Rowden said that his vessel, USS Mount Whitney, rescued an ailing Ghanaian fishing vessel and its crew of 6 men.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **New Lawmakers Form Recruitment Committees**

- According to the National Legislature Press Bureau, the House of Representatives has constituted two committees—one to accept applications for the positions of Chief Clerk, Deputy Chief Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms and the other to formulate the rules to govern the body.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **UNIFEM Executive Director Pledges US\$500,000 to Support Gender Ministry**

- United Nations Fund for Women Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer on behalf of the organization pledged US\$500,000 to assist the Ministry of Gender and Development to implement its Strategic Women Action Plan

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **UNMIL Pakistani Battalion Erects Playground in Gbarpolu County**

- The commander of the Pakistani contingent based in Gbarpolu, Maj. Zaheer Azeem, said that his contingent has erected a playground for the children of Gbarpolu County to address their recreational needs. He said that the project was funded by the Battalion.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **Hundreds of Children Dissatisfied with Conduct of National Children's Party**

- Speaking to journalists following the national children's party yesterday, several children expressed dissatisfaction over the conduct of the party. Some children complained of being denied entrance, while others accused the caterers of discrimination.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

## **ELBS** (News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)

### **South Africa to Assist in Liberia's Reconstruction Endeavours**

- South African President Thabo Mbeki said that his country will assist the new government of Liberia in its reconstruction endeavours.

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

### **National Muslim Council Challenges New Government to Fulfill Campaign Promises**

- According to a press statement, the National Muslim Council has urged the new government to fulfill its campaign promises to Liberians.

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](mailto:armahj@un.org).



## Ivorian president calls for calm

**The president of Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo, has called for his supporters to end violent protests against foreign targets in the country's main city.**

Mr Gbagbo urged the people of Abidjan to return to work on Thursday and end attacks on United Nations peacekeepers.

He issued a statement after meeting Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in an effort to restore calm.

Mr Gbagbo's supporters were angered by recommendations by a UN group that parliament should be dissolved.

Earlier, some 2,000 Ivoirians loyal to Mr Gbagbo surrounded the UN headquarters in Abidjan, and were held back by tear gas and rifle fire.

More than 300 troops were forced to withdraw from two UN bases in the west of the country after clashes killed at least four protesters.

The UN Security Council has expressed "great concern" at the unrest.

### Confusing 'fury'

Ivory Coast has been split in two since a failed coup attempt in 2002, with rebels controlling the northern half of the country.

#### IVORY COAST CONFLICT

**Sept 2002:** Dissident soldiers fail to overthrow President Gbagbo, but rebels seize north of country

**May 2003:** Armed forces sign ceasefire with rebel groups

**Nov 2004:** Ivorian air force attacks rebels; French forces destroy parts of Ivorian air force after nine of their soldiers killed. Violent anti-French protests prompt thousands of Westerners to leave

**Oct 2005:** Planned elections shelved as President Gbagbo invokes a law which he says allows him to stay in power

Protests by Gbagbo supporters erupted on Monday after international mediators recommended dissolving parliament, whose mandate has expired.

In his statement issued late on Wednesday, Mr Gbagbo assured supporters that only the president and prime minister can decide whether to dissolve parliament, a fact he said had got lost in the fury of the past few days.

Nevertheless, the BBC's James Copnall in Abidjan says it remains to be seen whether President Obasanjo's mediation will bring the situation back to normal.

Following the mediators' move, the ruling FPI party pulled out of the transitional government and

UN-backed peace talks, and called on the 10,000 French and UN troops keeping the peace to leave.

### **'Defended themselves'**

In the early hours of Wednesday, the UN base at Guiglo, 300km (190 miles) west of Abidjan, was besieged by youths supporting President Gbagbo, known as "Young Patriots".

The 300-strong Bangladeshi peacekeeping force stationed there responded with force, described as "defence" by a UN military observer.

The UN decided to abandon Guiglo and the smaller base of Douekue nearby, and the peacekeepers were being withdrawn to the demilitarised zone further north, Capt Combarieu said.

Our correspondent says the Young Patriots are also now in control of virtually all the main streets in Abidjan.

France, the former colonial power, expressed concern and called for calm. The head of French defence staff has called for sanctions against Ivory Coast.

The UN Security Council will consider possible responses, including sanctions, at a meeting on Thursday, said council president Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania.

### **'Putsch'**

International mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections, which were due to be held last year but were postponed because of the continued instability.

Analysts say by calling for the dissolution of parliament, mediators intended to strengthen Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny's authority and ensure that hostile deputies did not block attempts to implement the peace process, as happened last year.

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

A spokesman for the rebel New Forces, which hold the north, responded: "There is not a future for Ivory Coast if the FPI succeeds in making a putsch against the peace process. That means war."

**Have you been affected by the unrest in Ivory Coast? Tell us about your experience, using the form below**