

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



See photos from the Special Court football team's semi-finals victory in today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Monday, 2 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News	
Special Court Gets New President / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 3
Court Workers Cry Foul! / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
International News	
Austrian Judge Heads Sierra Leone Court / <i>Legalbrief Africa</i>	Page 5
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 6-8
Negotiations Begin in Guinea After Weeklong Riots Begin to Calm / <i>VOA</i>	Pages 9-10
Special Court Supplement	
The Special Court football team's semi-final victory over Artists for Peace	Pages 13-14

Awareness Times
Monday, 2 June 2008

Special Court Gets New President

Justice Renate Winter of Austria has been elected to a one-year term, effective May 30, as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes her president of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, local tabloids have intimated. According to reports, she succeeds Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone who has served as president since 2006. Justice Winter reportedly joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002 and served as Acting President of the Special Court from March to May 2004.

Awoko

Monday, 2 June 2008

Court workers cry foul!

By John Baimba Sesay

Court Clerks and Bailiffs trained by the United Nations Development Program four years ago have expressed disappointment over the way they are being treated over their salaries and backlog owed them by the Judiciary. They were trained to help in the dispensation of justice in the country and most of them were assigned to the provinces whilst others were assigned to the Law Courts in Freetown.

Speaking to Awoko, most of the affected workers revealed that, since UNDP pulled out from the programme, they have been owed their salaries for months and that, following the withdrawal of UNDP, their salaries were reduced from Le 220,000 to Le 130,000 monthly by government. There are also reports that, since they went through a three months training by UNDP, they were never given a certificate.

The Master and Registrar of the Judiciary, Edwin Bailor in a recent press briefing organized by the Ministry of Information stated that, the issue of backlog salary was not to his attention and that, he was aware all backlog salaries of staffs within the judiciary were paid. "There is no court official that has not been paid his backlog", Bailor said.

But according to Gbassay Mohamed Tarawalie, the Accountant at the Sub-Treasury department at the Law Courts, he was aware of the backlog salary of the court clerks and bailiffs but stated that, the Establishment Department and the Accountant-Generals Department had some role to play on the issue. "The Establishment Office is responsible for all government employment and the Accountant-General's Department for payment. When the Establishment Office employs and gives out pin code to staff, it is the responsibility of the Accountant-General's Department to verify and make payment to those staffs", Tarawalie said.

He also blamed the UNDP for not officially communicating to them when they wanted to pullout of the whole programme. "There was no official communication between UNDP and us when they wanted to withdraw from the programme as that would have made us prepare an exit strategy", Tarawallie said. He said, he has been liaising with the Establishment office to find a lasting solution to the problem. He also stated that, when government took over, most of the staffs were not issued employment letters by government. However, a letter from the Establishment Secretary dated 12th September 2006, proved otherwise. "I am directed to offer you an appointment as a Temporary Court Bailiff in the Judiciary Department, Ministry of Justice with effect from the date of assumption of duty in that capacity", stated the letter, signed by Avril Cummings for the Acting Establishment Secretary. Judiciary is undergoing a reform process.

Meanwhile, the court officials are appealing to the authorities concerned to look into their plight even as the judiciary is undergoing reforms.

Legalbrief Africa

Monday, 2 June 2008

Austrian judge heads Sierra Leone court

Published in: Legalbrief Today

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An experienced Austrian judge has been chosen as the new President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the UN-backed war crimes Tribunal.

According to a UN News Service report, Justice Renate Winter was elected to a one-year term as the Presiding Judge of the appeals chamber, a post which automatically made her the Court's President as well, the SCSL said. Winter - who joined the SCSL in 2002 - succeeds Justice George Gelaga-King, of Sierra Leone, who has served as President since 2006.

Full UN News Service report

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
30 May 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

World Bank Gives US\$10M to Fight Food Crisis in Liberia

(National Chronicle, New Vision, The Informer, The News and Heritage)

- The World Bank said it will provide US\$10 million dollars to assist Liberia in tackling the sharp increase in the price of food. The funds, World Bank President Robert Zoellick said, is intended to help boost agricultural production in the country, by providing farmers all the requisite support they need to grow more food. The Bank's announcement, the local media says, came Thursday during high level panel discussions on the challenges and opportunities of high food prices.
- The gesture by the Bank is in response to an intervention by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for speedy action by financial institutions and the international community to tackle the food crisis in poor countries like Liberia.
- At same time, the European Union announced that a decision has been reached by the Commission to provide 25 million Euros (US \$35 million) to support Liberia's County Development Projects. European Union Commissioner Louis Michel said the Commission is also working out programs to support the development of the country's infrastructure, including roads, electricity as well as the health sector. The media portrayed the developments as key to fighting hike in prices and the enhancement of local administration.

IRC-Liberia Holds Seminar to Draft Transitional Health Strategy

(The Informer)

- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) will on Saturday begin a three-day seminal to draft a Transitional Health Sector Strategy in Monrovia. The seminal will provide a forum for IRC-Liberia health staff, key partners, and stakeholders to brainstorm on ideas that could be incorporated into the proposed Transitional Health Strategy which will guide IRC's health sector programming for the next three years.

Liberia's Vice President Hails UNMIL's Performance as UN Observes Peacekeepers' Day

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, Daily Observer, National Chronicle)

- Liberia's Vice President Joseph N. Boakai has applauded the contribution of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the restoration of peace and stability and post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia, describing it as "concrete and lasting." Mr. Boakai was speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony at UNMIL Pan African Plaza Headquarters in Monrovia to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.
- Mr. Boakai said government without reservation supports the efforts of the UN, particularly its Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), in its efforts to expose and weed out the tiny minority of peacekeepers who abuse and exploit the vulnerable in the society. For her part, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj delivered the UN Secretary-General's message for the day, which also marks the 60th anniversary of UN peacekeeping. The message, which traced the beginning of UN peacekeeping and how it had developed into the world body's flagship enterprise, paid glowing tribute to peacekeepers serving in

challenging and dangerous environments to bring hope to humanity. It singled out three countries, including Liberia, where UN peacekeepers have provided breathing space for a fragile peace to take hold.

Taylor's NPFL Committed Carter Camp Massacre, Says Female Survivor

(New Democrat, Heritage, Daily Observer, New Vision, The Informer)

- Testifying at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) public hearings in Kakata, Margibi County, a survivor of the "notorious" Carter Camp massacre in Harbel in 1993 accused fighters of former President Charles Taylor's disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of committing the atrocities. According to Helen Kpah, top officials of the defunct NPFL including its leader Charles Taylor told survivors to blame the killings on soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia. Nearly 700 persons including women, children and the elderly were murdered in the massacre. A commission set up by the UN and headed by Kenya's Attorney General Amos Wako found the Armed Forces of Liberia guilty of the murder.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

Information Minister Confident President Sirleaf Would Not be Impeached

- Information Minister Laurence Bropleh says he is confident that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will not be impeached as former army personnel have no legitimate grounds.
- Dr. Bropleh said the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) was not dissolved but restructured in accordance with the CPA.
- Yesterday, the Executive Mansion said the President was not troubled by the impeachment petition describing the action by the soldiers as a "scam".
- On Monday, aggrieved soldiers under the banner "Unconstitutional Dissolved Armed Forces of Liberia" filed a impeachment petition alleging that the President violated the Constitution by dissolving the AFL.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

World Bank Announces US\$10m for Liberia To Fight Food Crisis

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Government Says Nearly 840 Refugees Return From Ghana

- Government has reported that nearly 840 registered Liberian refugees have returned from Ghana.
- Deputy Information Minister Gabriel Williams said their return is part of a tripartite agreement reached to repatriate thousands of Liberian refugees from Ghana.
- The agreement was reached by the Liberian and Ghanaian governments along with the UNHCR following a conflict that led to the deportation of some Liberians.
- Minister Williams said an additional 400 refugees are expected back home this weekend.

Bribery Probe Findings Go To House Leadership

- The House Judiciary Committee has finally submitted findings into the bribery probe to the leadership of the House of Representatives.
- The committee presented the findings to the House leadership after months of investigation.
- The Chairman of the Committee, Representative Armah Sarnoh said the findings into the bribery claim were submitted to the House leadership on Wednesday for study before being taken to the full plenary.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

House of Representatives to Study Impeachment Petition Against Chief Justice

- The House has instructed its Committees on Judiciary, Claims and Petition to look into the impeachment petition against Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis.
- The House took the decision Thursday after it was reminded of the petition filed by Stipendiary Magistrate Peter Gonsahn in August last year.

- The petition accused among other things of Justice Lewis of usurping and exercising jurisdiction over inferior Courts and discrimination in the assignment of Circuit Judges.

NPFL Committed Carter Camp Massacre, Says Female Survivor

- Testifying at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) public hearings in Kakata, Margibi County, a survivor of the “notorious” Carter Camp massacre in Harbel in 1993 accused fighters of the disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of committing the atrocities.
- According to Helen Kpah, top officials of the defunct NPFL including its leader Charles Taylor told survivors to blame the killings on soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.
- Nearly 700 persons including women, children and elderly were murdered in the massacre.
- A commission set up by the UN and headed by Kenya’s Attorney General Amos Wako found the Armed Forces of Liberia guilty of the murder.

Voice of America

Friday, 30 May 2008

Negotiations Begin in Guinea After Weeklong Riots Begin to Calm

By Ricci Shryock

Dakar

Guinea military officials pleaded with young, rioting soldiers to stop this week's violence, which has left dozens injured. On Friday morning, the capital Conakry was calm as high-ranking officials said they were working to negotiate with the mutinous soldiers. For VOA, Ricci Shryock has more from Dakar.



Supporters of Guinea's President Lansana Conte rally in Kaloum neighborhood of Conakry, 30 May 2008

Presidential guards were posted along strategic points in the Guinea capital Conakry Friday morning, such as the November 8 bridge, leading into the city, says local journalist Maseco Conde.

On Thursday Guinea's military had a standoff with young mutinous soldiers on the bridge. Both sides fired shots into the air, but not at each other. Conde says the capital was calm the next day, but gas stations and shops remained closed in fear of further violence and looting.

Since Monday, young officers in the Guinea military, angry over unpaid wages, have been rioting. At least one person has died and more than a dozen were wounded in the violence.



Lansana Kouyate (8 Feb 2007)

The violence began after last week's surprise dismissal of prime minister Lansana Kouyate. President Lansana Conte fired Kouyate in a presidential decree read over state television last Friday.

Kouyate was appointed prime minister early last year after riots against President Conte left more than 100 people dead. When he was appointed, the former prime minister said he would increase military salaries. Some soldiers say they have not been paid since 1996.

On Tuesday new prime minister, Ahmed Tidiane Souare, a member of Conte's party, said he would begin to pay the soldiers the equivalent of \$1100 US dollars at the end of this month.

President Conte also fired the defense minister on Tuesday as part of negotiations with the soldiers.

But the violence continued on Thursday, as some soldiers demanded the dismissal of more top-ranking army officials.

Journalist Conde says it is just a small group of about 300 soldiers who are asking for the additional dismissals.

Conde says Army Chief, Brigadier-General Diarra Camara, appeared on state television Thursday to say that negotiations are open, and to plead with the soldiers to stop the violence while they try to reach an agreement.

West African researcher for the New York-based group Human Rights Watch, Dustin Sharp speaking from Burkina Faso, says a division between young and old in Guinea's military has been brewing for years.

"The generational divisions within the army are probably more pronounced than the ethnic divisions," Sharp said. "In general, you have a group of young officers that are rising up, are frustrated by the fact that they feel that the sort of fat cat officers at the top are not opening up the way for new promotions, and the people at the top, at least in the eyes of the young officers, are living handsomely while they feel like they are suffering."

Sharp adds riots within the Guinea military are nothing new, and the government should hold the violent officers accountable. Souare has already promised that no mutineers in this most recent incident will be punished.

"The indiscipline that we have seen in Guinea's army this week, firing in the air and taking a high level military commander hostage, it is due at least in part to the government's repeated refusal over the years to hold them responsible for crimes they have committed. The government's failure to pursue those who have committed crimes is itself a threat to the government's own stability," Sharp said.

Sharp adds that past military riots have usually been rooted in money, but some of his sources say this division between young and old could eventually materialize into a concrete movement.

The West African country is home to mineral wealth. It holds more than a third of the world's known reserves of bauxite, but most of its citizens live in poverty.

Special Court Supplement
Semi-Final Match
Saturday, 31 May 2008 at the Football Academy in Kingtom



