

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



Photos from the funeral of our colleague Samuel Kobna Eyeson 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:

Thursday, 2 September 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Peace & Democracy Are Two Sides Of The Same Coin Le1000

COMMENTARY

Special Court Is Tool To Effect Regime Change...I DISAGREE

By Jonathan Leigh

That the Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up to effect regime change in Liberia, as perceived by Baffour Ankomah is hog wash and a totally absurd presumption. Baffour is Ghanaian but resident in the UK and editor of the long standing Pan-African monthly magazine *New African*. But at the same time has passion for Mr. Charles Taylor as was clear in his inter-

view on CTN yesterday morning. He made reference to Issa Sesay's testimony before the court in defence of Charles Taylor in which he completely exonerated Mr. Taylor in any direct dealing with the RUF. But Baffour did not recognize the fact that Issa Sesay is like a drowning man who will want to puncture the case of the same

prosecution that presented evidence against him which eventually led to his conviction. To substantiate his blindness to the fact, Baffour questioned why there isn't a Special Court for Liberia. The reason is simple. The man who plunged Liberi-

More in page 11

... with Werner Bremen - who are in Cham-
pions League Group A with Spurs!

Special Court is no tool for regime change

from front page

into chaos is already on trial for exporting his war across the border into Sierra Leone and it will be unjust to have him on trial again which will be like overstretching his own very defence.

Regime change in Liberia was planned and executed from Guinea where Sekou Damate Konneh's LURD rebels were trained to prevent Taylor furthering his plan of destabilizing the sub region. Taylor's destabilization plan is the reason why Guinean soldiers are still occupying Yenga inside Sierra Leonean territory.

It is the reason why The Gambia has a tyrant and monster in power refusing to

give democracy a chance and respect for human rights. Because if there was no ECOMOG to checkmate Taylor excesses, the likes of Yayah Jammeh would not have returned home from peacekeeping duty in Liberia to protest for pay which eventually led to the ousting of a sitting government.

We wouldn't have had either soldiers protesting in Sierra Leone for lack of logistics to prosecute the rebel war which resulted to the overthrow of the APC which gave birth to the NPRC and later its offshoot the AFRC some years later.

It is baffling when intellectuals like Baffour see in Mr. Charles Taylor a hero who deserves not to be vilified.

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Awoko

Thursday, 2 September 2010

'Marzah had no physical proximity to Taylor'

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecution witness and former member of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group, Joseph Zig Zag Marzah, did not have physical proximity to the former Liberian president, a former radio operator attached to Taylor's Special Security Service (SSS) unit has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague.

In 2008, Marzah testified as a prosecution witness in The Hague, and he told judges that Taylor personally gave him orders to carry out executions of individuals in Liberia and that as members of the same secret society, himself and Taylor feasted on human beings, who had been executed on the former president's orders. Marzah also told the court that on Taylor's instructions, he transported arms and ammunition to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for 'blood' diamonds.

During Taylor's almost seven months of testimony in his own defense, he dismissed Marzah's evidence as lies, telling the judges that illiteracy could be responsible for the witness concocting such stories against him.

Defense counsel for Taylor, Morris Anyah, asked DCT-008, Mr. Taylor's 20th defence witness, whether it was possible for Marzah and Taylor to share a meal together.

"Did the president of Liberia have one on one interaction, such as meals, with someone like Zig Zag Marzah?" Anyah

Kambia district are coop-

asked the witness.

"No," the witness responded.

"Were you there?" presiding judge of the Trial Chamber Justice Julia Sebutinde asked the witness.

In response, the witness explained, "Your honor, I said no because looking at the personnel in this situation, because even the special assistant to Benjamin Yeaten, Samson Wai, did not have physical proximity to the president."

"Marzah was just like a servant to Benjamin Yeaten," the witness added.

When asked whether radio operators had access to former president Taylor, the witness said, "During the time that I was assigned to the Executive Mansion, I never had the privilege to see the president because he was very far from us. We'll sometimes see his convoy from our office but we never went very close to him."

DCT-008 also spent a considerable amount of time discussing the radio communications that took place between the radio communication set that was installed at Yeaten's residence in Liberia called 'Base One' and the radio set that was used by RUF commander Sam Bockarie, located at the RUF headquarters in the Sierra Leonean town of Buedu.

In 2008, a prosecution witness testified that when Yeaten and Bockarie wanted to talk with each other, one radio operator from either Sierra Leone or Liberia would call the radio set on the other side and say, "The principal on this side wants to talk to the principal on that

side."

DCT-008 dismissed this testimony as a lie, telling the court that while radio communications took place between the two stations, no titles were used during the communication.

"No one was referred to as principal during the communication between Buedu and Base One," he said.

The witness also added that contrary to prosecution evidence, the communications that took place between Liberia and Sierra Leone only started in the late 1990s, and evidence that such contact existed in the mid 1990s is false.

When DCT-008 explained, "To my knowledge, in [19] 94, 95 up to 97, there was no communication between the government of Liberia or the NPFL at the time and the RUF," a judge of the Trial Chamber, Justice Richard Lussick, asked the witness, "How do you know?"

In response, the witness said, "I was told by previous operators that in 1991-92, there was communication between the NPFL and the RUF, but after that, there was no link between the NPFL and the RUF."

When the Judge asked him to tell the court the names of the said previous operators who had told him so, the witness said, "Sorry I can't remember their names...but I can remember this information."

The witness also refuted evidence that when the RUF undertook operations in Sierra Leone, RUF commander Sam Bockarie had radio contacts with SSS director Benjamin Yeaten.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Wednesday, 1 September 2010

Liberian Radio Operator Disputes the Evidence of RUF Radio Operators

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor's 20th defense witness, a former radio operator first in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group and then in the Special Security Service (SSS) unit of Mr. Taylor's government, today disputed the evidence of several Revolutionary United Front (RUF) radio operators, who in 2008 testified before the Special Court for Sierra Leone about radio communications that took place between the RUF and Mr. Taylor's government in Liberia.

According to the witness, who is testifying under protective measures and is therefore only identified by pseudonym DCT-008, RUF radio operators lied when they alleged in their testimonies that RUF commanders sent regular radio messages to Mr. Taylor about the RUF's activities in Sierra Leone and that Mr. Taylor and his SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten sent regular instructions to the RUF through the radio operator called Sun Light, who operated the radio communication set that was installed at Mr. Yeaten's residence called Base One.

In July 2008, a former RUF radio operator, TFI-567, told the court that in December 1998, when RUF rebels dislodged Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers and captured the diamond rich town of Kono, radio communications took place between the RUF radio operators based at RUF headquarters in the Sierra Leonean town of Buedu and Liberian authorities through the radio operator Sun Light, who was in charge of the Base One radio set in Liberia.

When DCT-008 was asked about this today, he told the court, "It didn't happen so. I have my doubts because Sun Light never visited Sierra Leone to know what was happening there. Sun Light did not give any report on RUF operations...Sun Light did not have any contacts with the RUF organization. He was only communicating with Sam Bockarie [RUF commander] on behalf of Benjamin Yeaten."

DCT-567 also told the court that when he travelled to Liberia, together with another RUF radio operator, Memunatu Deen, who was already coordinating RUF activities in Monrovia, SSS Director Mr. Yeaten took them to see Mr. Taylor at the Executive Mansion around 10:00PM on a particular night.

When defense lawyers asked DCT-008 whether he was aware of this, the witness said, "It is not to my knowledge and moreover, Memunatu Deen's operation in Liberia was very covert, it was secret and the Government of Liberia did not know that Memunatu Deen was in Monrovia and carrying out such operations, and it is not to my knowledge that Memunatu Deen and Benjamin Yeaten went to see President Taylor."

He also said that he was not aware of "Charles Taylor receiving visitors at the Executive Mansion late in the night."

This prompted a question from Justice Richard Lussick of the Trial Chamber. Justice Lussick asked, "Yesterday, you said that in all your time at the Executive Mansion, you never even got to see the president. So how would you know if he received visitors?"

In response, the witness said, "This is why I said that it is not to my knowledge that the president received visitors late at night."

"Memunadu Deen never told me anything concerning her visit to the president of Liberia," he added, noting also that neither Mr. Yeaten, nor any other person informed him of such visit.

The witness also refuted the evidence of another RUF radio operator, TFI-585, who testified in 2008 that when rebel forces invaded Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown in 1999, Mr. Yeaten spoke to RUF commander Mr. Bockarie. During this conversation, the SSS Director expressed gratification at news of the invasion of Freetown, telling Mr. Bockarie that he'll visit RUF headquarters in Buedu in two days. Mr. Yeaten also told Mr. Bockarie to turn on his satellite phone as Mr. Taylor wanted to speak with him, the witness told the court in 2008.

Disputing this claim, DCT-008 today told the court, "I am not aware of that. For the time that I was at 50's [Yeaten] house, 50 never spoke to Sam Bockarie on the radio, infact, 50 never spoke to anybody on the radio, whether for family or government issues."

He also said that he was not aware of the SSS Director making any trip to Buedu.

DCT-008 also responded to the testimony given by the overall RUF signal commander, Mohamed Beretay Kabbah, who in 2008 testified that whenever an ECOMOG fighter jet left from the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Monrovia with a target to bomb RUF positions in Sierra Leone, Sun Light would inform RUF radio operators in Buedu that the "Iron Bird" was on the way, thus helping RUF rebels to plan their escape. Sun Light also used the code "448-" when informing RUF radio operators about the ECOMOG fighter jet, Mr. Kabbah said in 2008. DCT-008 described this account as false.

"First of all, I do not know the code 448 to be reference to an ECOMOG jet. And when Base One was communicating with Buedu, there was no communication regarding ECOMOG jet," the witness told the court.

"We had our own code that referenced an enemy plane and it was 15-2. During the NPFL days, when ECOMOG was carrying out air raids against the NPFL, the NPFL radio communication used "Iron Bird" but this was not expedient as it could reveal what we were talking about...and when we went into government, Iron Bird was cancelled and we used the code 15-2."

The witness added, "Base One was situated in Kongor town in Monrovia. The RIA where ECOMOG was is far away from Base One...Base One had no knowledge of ECOMOG jets. Yes, we could hear a plane when moving but we had no knowledge of where it was going, so the issue of communication regarding the movement of ECOMOG jets never occurred.

When asked by Judge Lussick whether it was "possible for somebody at RIA to get intouch with Base One either by radio or telephone," the witness said, "Yes."

"We had a radio at RIA. It was possible," he said.

The witness, however, said that there was no time that the radio operator at RIA informed Base One that an ECOMOG jet had take off for Sierra Leone.

The witness disputed claims that the RUF used to communicate with Mr. Taylor through Sun Light. He said that Sun Light never had access to the president of Liberia and so there is no way such communications could have taken place through Sun Light.

DCT-008-'s testimony continues on Thursday.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 September 2010

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

Local News on Liberian issues

New Appointments in Government

[In Profile Daily, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, The New Republic]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made new appointments in Government subject to confirmation by the Senate where applicable.
- Those appointed are Ms. Sarah Brownell, Assistant Minister/Special Assistant to the Foreign Minister and Mr. Konah Blackett, Ambassador to Kuwait.
- Others appointed include J. Wesley Washington, Assistant Foreign Minister for Public Affairs and Thierry Swarthy Genesis, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations.
- Cllr. Paul Mulbah Richards has been appointed Deputy Minister for Postal Operations, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and Joe Bando, Assistant Postal Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.
- Also appointed are Ms. Juah Feika, Commissioner of Internal Revenues and Mrs. Kemah Martins, Assistant Lands, Mines and Energy Minister for Administration.
- In local government, the President appointed Messrs Hampton Giddings and Matthew Galawulu, Commissioners of Fuamah and Yelequelleh Districts respectively.

Chevron Oil Agreement Has Potential Worth of US\$10 Billion, Says US Embassy, Lauds Government

[Heritage, The News]

- The US Embassy in Liberia has congratulated the Government of Liberia on signing an agreement with Chevron Corporation on 27 August 2010 for the exploration of three oil blocks in Liberian waters.
- "This is only the first step in a process, however, as the Liberian Legislature must, as required by Liberian law, examine and then ratify the agreement for it to come into effect.
- If approved, this three-year exploration project is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2010 and has a potential worth of US\$10 billion," the US Embassy said in a press release issued Tuesday.
- According to the Embassy, the agreement would create jobs for Liberians, increase the national income and help develop other sectors of the economy.

Ghana Human Rights Court Condemns Cuban Pathologist Report

[National Chronicle, New Democrat]

- The Human Rights Court of Ghana has declared as reckless, the autopsy report that formed the basis of the death sentence against Hans and Mardea Williams.
- The Williams family broke the news Tuesday at the convicts' Old Road residence in Monrovia.
- Barsee Williams, the family's spokesman, said the human rights court in Accra ordered that the Cuban pathologist's autopsy report be rejected as baseless.
- The court's alleged ruling, the family gave journalists, also described the autopsy report as a miscarriage of justice to Mr. and Mrs. Williams.
- The decision was based on the fact that Dr. Josepha Hernandez failed to examine vital organs before determining the death of Little Angel Tokpa.
- The family filed the suit against the Cuban pathologist in Accra after Criminal Court 'B' sentenced the couple to death by hanging in March 2010.
- Meanwhile, the family said it has filed a US\$50 million damages suit against Dr. Hernandez.

ADB to Fund Fish Town - Harper Highway

[Daily Observer]

- The African Development Bank (ADB) has made a commitment to fund the full rehabilitation of the Fish Town - Harper highway.
- The ADB said the project will be intensely labor-based and will make the highway an all weather road.
- The road pavement exercise will be funded under the bank's ADF-12 programme as part of its next round of projects on the continent.
- The Bank is currently supporting a partial rehabilitation of the Fish Town - Harper highway under its ADF-11 programme.
- A Finance Ministry release says the commitment was given at a reception held in honor of the six-man ADB team that visited Liberia last week.
- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan said the pavement of the road would be done following approval by the Board of Governors of the ADB.

Pleebo-Sodoken Students Shock Over President Sirleaf's Action

[The Inquirer]

- The Pleebo-Sodoken University Student Association says it is shock and disappointed over the Executive Mansion's approval of SIFCA's operations.
- The group in a statement signed by Marvin Williams said it is also taken aback at President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's criticism of lawmaker Bhofal Chambers' alleged disruption of SIFCA's operation.
- The Maryland students maintained they disagree with claims that Representative Chambers' advocacy for an alternative investment amounts to disruption.
- The students said while they still believe in Madam Sirleaf's ability to lead the nation, they are of the view that she was misled on the current situation at Decoris.
- The Pleebo-Sodoken students have meanwhile called on the National Legislature to launch an independent probe into the bidding process which led to the selection of SIFCA.

Lutheran Hands Over School in Lofa

[In Profile Daily, National Chronicle, The Inquirer]

- The Lutheran Development Service (LDS) in Liberia has constructed and turned over to Government a modern school building in Dorzenilor, Zorzor District, Lofa County.
- The cost of the modern school facility is put at US\$30,000.00.
- The construction of the K. Mama M. Devine Memorial Public School followed an appeal from citizens and residents of Dorzenilor at the end of 2007.
- LDS project officer, Mrs. Bernice K. Womba said the construction of the school started in June of 2009, and was completed in July 2010 as planned, but could not go on due to the sudden death of the project manager, Mrs. K. Mama M. Devine in whose honor the school was named.
- Also speaking at the official turning over ceremony, LDS executive director, Joseph Binda said his entity will continue to work with communities and people who are interested in helping themselves, especially in the construction of modern schools in populated rural communities that lack educational facilities.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

New Appointments in Government

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

House Extends Session by Two Weeks

- The House of Representatives has approved a joint resolution to extent its regular session by two weeks.
- The resolution followed the end of the Legislative session on Tuesday, August 31 and paves the way for the House to deal with certain national issues before it.
- The resolution has meanwhile been sent to the Senate where it would later be endorsed.

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Law Reform Commission Signs Communiqué

- The Liberia Law Reform Commission (LRC) and its Nigerian counterpart have signed a communiqué centred on bilateral cooperation.
- The chairman of the Commission said the communiqué will provide training and technical assistance.
- Cllr. Philip Banks said the cooperation would greatly help the LRC in building its capacity.
- According to Cllr. Banks, the signing of the communiqué followed rounds of discussions with a delegation of the Nigeria Law Reform Commission.
- The LRC chief described the discussions with his Nigerians counterpart as fruitful.

- He said similar discussions are being held with the Ghana Law Reform Commission as a means of establishing links with foreign commissions.
- Cllr. Banks has meanwhile spoken of financial constraints facing the LRC which if not addressed could affect the smooth operation of the Commission.

Ghana Human Rights Court Condemns Cuban Pathologist Report

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

ADB to Fund Fish Town - Harper Highway

State Completes Selection of Jurors to Hear Chinese Case

- State and defense lawyers have completed the selection of jurors to hear the murder case involving two Chinese men.
- It followed an agreement that selected jurors will not be sequestered until work on the jury quarters at the Temple of Justice is complete.
- Defense lawyers had earlier asked for a sequestered jury to avoid outside influence.
- The two Chinese men have pleaded not guilty to the indictment against them.
- They are accused of killing a South African in Central Monrovia last year.

Monrovia Bible College Charged With Economic Crime

- Government has charged the Monrovia Bible College (MBC) for what it calls academic crime in the country.
- The Director General of the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) alleged the college was caught offering misleading admission documentation to its students.
- According to Dr. Michael Slawon, the institution was selling information sheets to students contrary to its accreditation agreement.
- He said in its admission documentation now being marketed, the college claimed it has the right to operate as a Bachelor's degree granting institution.
- Dr. Slawon however said the MBC is among institutions that did not meet government's requirements to offer Bachelor's degree in Liberia.
- Meanwhile, the NCHE has mandated the college to refund all the money it collected from its students in two weeks.

Pleebo-Sodoken Students Shock Over President Sirleaf's Action

Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

Disagreement Ensues Between Government Negotiators over NPA Deal

- Disagreement Tuesday erupted between government negotiators on the ATM Terminals at the public hearing on the draft modernization agreement of the National Port Authority (NPA).
- The draft agreement suggests that the Dutch Company ATM Terminal will invest US\$120 million in the period of five years depicting US\$8 million a year.
- NPA managing director Matilda Parker said while she supports the privatization of the port, it must be done properly.
- Ms. Parker registered her discontentment for the exclusion of the NPA in the signing of the ATM Terminals agreement that speaks of few employees of the port who would be absorbed by the company.
- The NPA boss also said the agreement does not provide the US\$3.9 million earmarked to address the welfare of employees if the agreement is ratified by the Legislature.
- The head of Government's Negotiating Secretariat on the ATM Terminals Agreement, Patrick Sando said the draft agreement is enormously complex in the interest of the country and its people.
- He said the agreement provides US\$2 million to NPA employees who will not be absorbed by ATM Terminals when the agreement is ratified by the Legislature.

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Doctors Want Child with swollen Head Seek Treatment Aboard

- Doctors treating a two-month old baby suffering from swollen head have advised that the child be flown abroad for further treatment.
- The child, Ujay Redd, was born in July this year and his head can be described as a water bag.
- His father Mark Redd is asking the Government of Liberia and other humanitarian organizations to assist with the child's treatment abroad.
- He said the child's head is growing everyday.

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)***Police Raid Several Ghettos, Arrest 20**

- At least 20 persons have been so far arrested since the Liberia National Police (LNP) launched a vigorous crackdown on drug dealers.
- The suspects, according to Police spokesman George Bardue, were arrested at various ghettos including the PHP, the Coconut Plantation communities as well as Centre and Gurley Streets areas.
- The suspects including two Sierra Leoneans were arrested with dangerous narcotic substances.
- Mr. Bardue said 16 of the suspects have been charged and sent to court while the rest are still undergoing investigation.

International Clip on Liberia**Liberian Official Insists the Government Takes Care of Its Former Presidents****www.voanews.com**

The Liberian government has said it has not failed to take care of the needs of its most recent former presidents. This comes as one of the former chairmen of Liberia's National Transitional Council, Professor David Kpomakpor, who passed away last week, is being buried this weekend in the United States. Eddie Jones, son of the late Kpomakpor, complained that the government has done little, or nothing, to assist the family in his father's burial. But, Jerolinmek Piah, Liberia's deputy Minister of Information and Public Affairs, told VOA the government has been working with individuals who took care of Professor Kpomakpor that he gets a proper burial. "The government is fully aware that, while the former councilman was sick in the United States, the son was nowhere around. The father was in the care of other persons and not the son. So, whatever assistance the government is giving toward the burial of Kpomakpor is being done through those who were in charge of him while he was ill and alive because our interest is to ensure that the former councilman is properly buried," he said.

International Clips on West Africa**Guinea****Guinea Presidential Candidate Says Local Officials Campaigning for Rival****www.voanews.com**

The front-runner in Guinea's presidential runoff says some local officials are unfairly campaigning for his rival ahead of this month's vote. Cellou Diallo won more than 40 percent of ballots in Guinea's first round of presidential voting. So he is considered the front-runner in this month's runoff, especially as he has expanded his political coalition to include former rivals. But in campaigning for the September 19 election, Diallo says some local government officials are unfairly favoring his opponent, Alpha Conde, who won just over one-quarter of the first-round votes. Diallo told reporters in Conakry that his party objects to some local officials and governors openly demonstrating their preference for the other candidate. He says that is not fair because all Guineans expect the administration to be neutral. No one in the transitional government is allowed to be a candidate in this election. So Diallo says their obligation to remain neutral must be respected.

Guinean President to attend Libyan Revolution anniversary**PANA**

Guinean President Sekouba Konate was billed to leave Conakry Tuesday for Tripoli to attend the 41st anniversary of the Libyan revolution, official sources told PANA here. The visit, on the invitation of Libyan leader Mouammar Khaddafi, will mark the second time since assuming office that the Guinean leader would visit Libya. The Guinean leader, who will be accompanied by a strong delegation, will stop over in Rabat, Morocco, for a medical check-up. Konate assumed office following the Ouagadougou Agreement signed 15 January, taking over from Captain Moussa Dadis Camara who is recovering from an attempt to assassinate him 3 Dec. 2009 by his aide-de-camp, Lt. Aboubacar 'Toumba' Diakite.

Ivory Coast**Ivorian rebels say back in barracks ahead of poll****Reuters**

Ivory Coast's New Forces rebels said on Tuesday they had completed a programme of temporary disarmament and gathering of their troops into barracks ahead of elections set for Oct 31. "As far as the New Forces are concerned,

the regrouping of our soldiers is complete," said rebel spokeswoman Bamba Affoussy. "Although there remain technical details to address, notably financing." Containing the rebels in camps is seen as a key step towards the elections, which have been delayed since 2005 because of rows over rebel disarmament and mechanisms to verify voter identity. The elections are meant to end a crisis that has persisted since the rebels took up arms against President Laurent Gbagbo in 2002 and seized the country's north. The vote is vital if Ivory Coast is to reclaim its slot as West Africa's prosperous economic powerhouse and reform a cocoa sector that supplies 40 percent of world demand.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone opposition members vie for presidential candidacy AFP

Eighteen members of Sierra Leone's main opposition party will seek nomination as the official presidential candidate in 2012 elections, the leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party said Tuesday. SLPP leader John Benjamin said it was possible another two people would add their names to the list before the deadline for the declaration of intent runs out by close of day Tuesday. "We have a rich list of applicants, well spread out and spanning all areas in the country and a gender balance," the party leader said. "The candidates include at least five former cabinet ministers under ex-president Tejan Kabbah as well as former military leader General Maada Bio, whose National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) toppled the civilian government of President Joseph Momoh in 1992. Three women are vying for the nomination which will take place at the party's national convention in March 2011.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 August 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL

UNMIL BANBATT-18 Pledged Commitment to Peace and Stability

[In Profile Daily]

- Bangladeshi peacekeepers of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have committed themselves to working for peace and stability in Liberia.
- The peacekeepers said not only that they will contribute to security, they are also keen to building the human resource and infrastructural capacities of the country.
- The soldiers however spoke of separate support by two of their battalions who they said have mainly worked toward improving roads and health delivery in Liberia.
- According to the peacekeepers, two weeks ago, BANBATT-13 in collaboration with the Ganta City Corporation embarked on the rehabilitation of major streets in Ganta.
- They said BANBATT-18 has also carried out free medical outreach to over 2,000 citizens in Nimba County.

UNHCR Facilitates the Return of 47 Liberians from Guinea

[The Inquirer]

- Forty seven Liberians have returned home from Guinea after many years of refugee experience in that French speaking country.
- The return of the Liberians was facilitated by the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR).
- The returnees, who were taken from the Kouankan Refugee Camp in Guinea, comprise 25 men and 22 women.
- According to them, they received US\$100 per family head and US\$50 each as resettlement benefits.
- Some of the returnees have meanwhile thanked the UNHCR for the kind hospitality accorded them and pointed out that they were happy to be home.

UNICEF, GOL Share School Materials to MCSS Schools

[Daily Observer]

- The Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) has received several educational materials from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for Children who are attending MCSS schools, MCSS Superintendent Victoria Worlobah Duncan disclosed.
- According to the MCSS boss, UNICEF gave 600 book bags, 40 cartons of copybooks, 10 cartons of pencils, 32 boxes of erasers and recreational items, among others.
- About 31 schools under the banner of MCSS will benefit from the UNICEF donated school materials.
- Superintendent Duncan explained that in order to equally distribute the items, the MCSS schools have been divided into three categories.
- Mrs. Duncan lauded UNICEF and the GOL for the initiative noting that the items will encourage students to take their lessons serious as classes begin shortly.

Local News on Liberian issues

President Sirleaf Nominates New INHRC Chair

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, National Chronicle]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has nominated Cllr. LeRoy Urey as new chairman to the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC).
- Cllr. Urey, 49 is a career lawyer and diplomat who many legal practitioners described as “one of the nation's foremost legal minds.”
- He replaced Cllr. Punchu Leonard Bernard who was withdrawn from the Commission by President Sirleaf.
- The new INHRC chairman-designate holds a Bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of Liberia and an LLB from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law.
- He was admitted to the Montserrado Bar in 1980 and the Supreme Court Bar in 1983.

President Sirleaf Comments on 30-year Ban

[The Inquirer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the 30-year political ban recommended for some politicians and other individuals by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has legal, political and societal implications.
- The President said she has been wisely advised by the task force that considering the legal, political and security implication, the implementation of said recommendation should not be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the presidency.
- Madam Sirleaf stressed that there are constitutional and legal implications inherited in the recommendations.
- The Liberian leader said she has referred the issue of prosecution to the Ministry of Justice and the Law Reform Commission.
- The President however said she is in full support of the aspect of the TRC's report that speaks of reconciliation, mainly the National Palaver Hut programme.
- She spoke when she presented her second quarterly report to the National Legislature on the TRC.

Delta Airlines Begins Flight to Liberia Sunday September 5

[Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer, The News]

- The long awaited Delta Airlines is expected to begin operations in Liberia on Sunday September 5, the first direct flight to the United States in 20 years.
- The Executive Mansion says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will cut the ribbon to begin the Airlines' official activities in the country.
- The Executive Mansion described the coming of Delta Airlines to Liberia as another milestone in the country's progress.

Executive Mansion Says Maryland Lawmaker's Action Unacceptable

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, Heritage, In Profile Daily, The News]

- The Executive Mansion has described as unacceptable, Representative Bhofal Chambers' actions against SIFCA.
- SIFCA is the agro company which won the bid to operate the Decoris Oil Palm Plantation in Pleebo-Sokoken District, Maryland County.
- Representative Chambers recently disrupted the company's operations claiming it had little social benefits for the people of his District.
- Presidential press secretary Cyrus Badio said the President was seriously displeased with the lawmaker's action saying it was not in the interest of Liberia.
- Mr. Badio said Mr. Chambers' action has the tendency to send out a bad image of the government and drive away investors.
- Meanwhile, the Executive Mansion has clarified there is no concession agreement between government and SIFCA and that the company was only trying to ease the unemployment situation in the county by utilizing US\$5.5 million.

Chevron, Putu Agreements Submitted to Legislature

[The Inquirer]

- Two major investment agreements have been submitted to the National Legislature for consideration and ratification by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The submission followed a deal between government and Chevron and the Putu Iron Ore Mining Incorporated and the Mano River Iron Ore Limited.
- The Chevron agreement relates to exploring three deepwater oil and gas assets concessions in Liberia.
- The other agreement with Putu and Mano River deals with the exploration and mining of iron ore in Grand Gedeh and surrounding south eastern counties.

- President Sirleaf said the agreements will provide significant benefits to the country.
- The House of Representatives has meanwhile ordered its relevant committees to look into the agreements and advise the plenary.

National Legislature Conducts Public Hearing on US\$100M Concession Agreement Today

[Daily Observer, Heritage, National Chronicle]

- The Joint Committee on State Enterprise, Investment and Concession, Contracts and Monopolies and Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives will today conduct a public hearing on the Concession Agreement between the Freeport of Liberia and the APM Terminals.
- The hearing was called off last Friday for what the committee called 'ambiguities' in the agreement. However, it is not clear whether the 'ambiguities' have been taken care of.
- APM Terminals will manage and rehabilitate the Freeport of Monrovia in a public-private partnership if the Legislature approves the agreement.
- The Joint Committee has invited the Managing Director and Deputies of the National Port Authority, Chairmen of the National Investment Commission and Public Procurement and Concession Commission, and the Ministers of Justice and Finance to make presentations.
- The presentations will inform Legislative Actions on the agreement before both Houses for ratification.

Cabinet Endorses Development Agenda for Liberia

[Front Page Africa]

- The Cabinet has endorsed the development of a national vision for Liberia.
- The vision tentatively named "Liberia Rising 2030" will replace the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) scheduled to end by June 2011.
- Planning Minister Amara Konneh said the new plan was on the successes of the PRS and defined the vision for what Liberia should be in 2030.
- Minister Konneh assured the new vision will be carved through broad-based consultations involving Liberians from across the country and all walks of life.
- The Planning Minister also assured, the new vision will set challenges but achievable targets for government to deliver on.
- The Cabinet also endorsed the working plans of the Governance Commission (GC) to introduce major reforms to decentralize government.
- A release from the Executive Mansion says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the cabinet pledged to work closely with the GC to ensure power is in the hands of all Liberians.

Three Nigerians, Six Liberians in DEA Dragnet

[Heritage]

- The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has announced the arrest of nine notorious drug dealers and traffickers.
- The individuals, three Nigerians and six Liberians were picked up over the weekend by the DEA's Special Drug Squad.
- DEA Director James Jaddah put the value of the drug seized at over eighty-six thousand Liberian dollars.
- Col. Jaddah has meanwhile appealed to the Senate to pass the drug law to help effectively carry out the statutory mandate of the agency.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

President Sirleaf to Accommodate LNBA's Views on TRC Report

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says she will ask the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) to advise government on the most critical aspects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.
- In a report to the National Legislature, the President said government should request the LNBA to take the lead on the issues of prosecution and public sanction.
- According to her, the move is to allow the Bar Association provides its inputs and advise government on the way forward.
- The Liberian leader said the intervention of the LNBA will be done with inputs and collaboration from other public and private organizations and individuals.
- President Sirleaf said her view followed a report by a small task force she constituted to assist her on the road map to implementing the TRC report.
- She said the Task Force advised that the implementation of the prosecution and lustration aspect of the TRC report should not be left solely with the Presidency.

- President Sirleaf's suggestion is contained in her Second Quarterly report to the National Legislature on the implementation of recommendations of the TRC.
- Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has asked its Peace and Reconciliation and Security Committee to review the report and advise the plenary Thursday.

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

GOL Announces Arrival of Recalled Diplomat

- The Government of Liberia (GOL) has announced the arrival into the country of its former Ambassador to the United States, Nathaniel Barnes.
- Ambassador Barnes arrived in the country nearly a week ago and would begin holding consultations with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today.
- Ambassador Barnes was recalled by President Sirleaf several weeks ago.

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Executive Mansion Says Maryland Lawmaker's Action Unacceptable

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Chevron, Putu Agreements Submitted to Legislature

Delta Airlines Begins Flight to Liberia Sunday September 5

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

National AIDS Commission Act Passed Into Law

- The House of Representatives has unanimously concurred with the Senate to pass into law an Act creating the National AIDS Commission (NAC).
- The concurrence vote followed a report by the Committee on Health and Social Welfare during a special session Monday.
- In the report, the Committee recommended the passage of the draft Act because it was in the national interest.
- The Committee chairman, Nimba Representative Edwin Gaye said the Act is intended to create a body to protect and cater for HIV/AIDS carriers.
- Representative Gaye said the NAC will also put in place proper mechanisms to control, prevent and treat HIV/AIDS cases.
- He said the Act also spelled out penalties for people who discriminate against carriers of the virus.
- The Nimba lawmaker said the Act will now be engrossed and sent to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for possible approval.

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

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Constitution Amendment Proposed

- The chairman of the Movement for Constitutional Reform in Liberia has proposed a constitution convention to amend portions of the Liberian Constitution.
- Mr. Augustus Jones wants the amendment of Article 56a and b held before the 2011 elections.
- He believes the constitution convention will help discuss critical issues arising in the Liberian Constitution to amend portions there of.
- Mr. Jones had earlier hoped the convention be held in August but considering the number of signatures received so far it would be impossible to achieve the objective.
- The Movement needs not fewer than 10,000 signatures in order to propose a constitutional amendment but has so far secured 4,883 signatures far short of the constitutional requirement.

Fallen Liberian Leader's Family Appeal to President Sirleaf

- Family members of the late State Council chairman, Professor David Kpomakpor have appealed to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to help bring his body back home.
- A brother of the deceased Gbely Larjeh said Professor Kpomakpor refused to steal from Government and therefore died as a poor man.
- Mr. Larjeh quotes the late Liberian leader as saying government paid him a very small amount at the time and it was not enough to share with the family.
- He described the late Kpomakpor as a kind and gentle man who led a simple life.
- The family appealed to government not to bury the former statesman in the United States because preparations have been concluded for his funeral in Liberia.
- Professor Kpomakpor died recently in the United States and there are reports that he could be buried there.

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Police Probe Six for Illegal Possession of Firearm

- Police in Monrovia are investigating five men and a woman on allegation of illegal possession of firearm.
- Police spokesman George Bardu said the suspects were arrested on board a vehicle marked TX-1736 in the Paynesville Community Saturday.
- He said details will be released at the end of the investigation.

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian president seeks re-election

Xinhua

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has declared her intention to seek a second term in office after she was ban from participating in politics in the country for 30 years. The country's lawmakers Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) said in its final report released in June 2009 that the president is a financier and supporter of the country's brutal 14 years civil war, which finally ended in 2003 and followed by a presidential elections that brought her to power in 2005. President Sirleaf who was one of several witnesses that testified before the commission admitted to her involvement in the country's civil crisis. She told the commission that she was misled by former president and then rebel leader Charles Taylor during the country's civil war to join in the war efforts but later withdrew her support and participation. The commission, in its final report also recommended that others who committed heinous crimes during the course of the war, most of whom included leaders of warring factions, should face prosecution for their action. The president, in a communication to the lawmakers on Monday, said the decision against her has legal, political and security implications and should be relaxed as a way of enhancing her quest to seek re-elections in the presidential elections next year.

TSA and the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority Partner to Enhance Aviation Security

www.sacbee.com

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) today announced the successful implementation of cooperative efforts to enhance aviation security. Flights between the United States and Liberia could begin as early as fall 2010. TSA has worked closely with LCAA to implement the necessary security protocols for sustainable aviation security institutions and practices, and to ensure the safety of passengers traveling between the two countries. In 2009, TSA and LCAA – by signing a Joint Statement of Intent – agreed to work together to develop and enhance aviation security programs as well as share best practices. "TSA's efforts to assist Liberia demonstrate our commitment to aiding in the development of aviation systems throughout the world," said John Halinski, assistant administrator for TSA's Office of Global Strategies.

Turkey's UN Security Council presidency begins on September 1st

www.todayszaman.com

Turkey will undertake presidency of UN Security Council between September 1 and 30, 2010. Turkey, during its presidency term, will head two high-level UN meetings. Turkish President Abdullah Gül will chair a UN meeting on protection of peace on September 23. A presidency statement, which will be prepared by Turkey, is envisioned to be adopted in the end of the meeting. The second meeting will be held on September 27. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu will chair the meeting on fight against terrorism. Following the meeting, another presidency statement is expected to be adopted. Turkey has been the head of Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Council since the beginning of 2010. The Security Council will convene on September 2, and adopt that month's schedule. Turkey's permanent representative to UN Ertugrul Apakan will hold a press conference, and brief about the details of the schedule. Developments in Middle East, recent reports of sanctions committees of the Council about Iran and Sudan, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), UN Mission in Liberia

(UNMIL), UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), mass rape case in Congo and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's recent report on Somalia are several of the topics in the agenda of the Council.

Delta Airlines to start direct flights to Liberia on Saturday, September 4th
<http://runningafrica.com>

Georgia-based Delta Airlines will this Saturday, September 4, 2010 start a direct international air service from the United States to Liberia's Roberts International Airport. This will be the first direct international commercial flight between the United States and Liberia in twenty years. This is the second go around with the Delta flight arrangement to Liberia. In June 2009, the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) denied Delta Airlines direct flight to Monrovia, Liberia and to Nairobi, Kenya. In a statement issued by the TSA, it said, "due to noted security vulnerabilities in and around Nairobi, and the failure to meet international security standards and appropriate recommended practices established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, TSA is currently denying air service by Delta to Nairobi and Monrovia until security standards are met or security threat assessments change."

Harsco wins \$13M in rail equipment contracts
www.businessweek.com

Rail maintenance equipment maker Harsco Corp. said Monday it has received \$13 million in new rail orders, including contracts from Bangladesh and Liberia, a nod to the company's effort to bring in new business from overseas. Under one of the deals, Harsco will build a machine for the Bangladesh Railway system that makes rail tracks more durable by leveling and ramping them. The unit will be constructed in Harsco Rail's U.S. production facilities and is scheduled for delivery next year. The Liberian order calls for the sale of a Harsco Rail Grinder, a machine that helps maintain and improve track by resurfacing and correcting damage. It will also be delivered next year. Harsco has also received new orders in the U.S. from three railroads for its new drone tampers -- fully automated vehicles that can tamp down track beds. The units are scheduled for delivery starting later this year and continuing into early 2012.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Dadis Camara still shadowing the political arena
www.african-bulletin.com

Slowly but surely, the hope is back within the Guineans. At least it is close to ending the political crisis in which the country is plunged. By consensus, the political actors have agreed to the date of September 19 for holding the second round of a presidential election regarded, at the same time, like that of all the dangers, but also of all the hopes for this country that has never organised an open and free ballot for more than 50 years, since independence. If we could predict a good end to the crisis after the election on September 19, despite some turmoil within the Guinean politics, nothing is known about the fate of Dadis Moussa Camara, cloistered in Ouagadougou since the 12th of January. Indeed, if we can imagine that the acting president has other "fish to fry" after the installation of the elected president, no one dares to speculate on the next destination of Dadis Camara. The least we can say is that the way to Conakry seemed banned for good reason. To enable him to mourn his son, who passed away tragically in Canada, his relatives were forced to transit his remains by Ouagadougou. The Guinean authorities are unwilling to see Dadis treading the soil of his country; but for how long he will be living in exile? This is another equation that Guinea should resolve. For the moment, Captain Camara said he must be neutral in the run-off between first place finisher Cellou Diallo and second-place finisher Alpha Condé, explaining that if he favours one candidate over another; he would violate the principles of democracy.

8 Guinean fishing monitors missing
SAPA

Eight Guinean officers patrolling for illegal fishing vessels have been missing since August 11 while on a mission at sea, the fisheries and agriculture department said on Monday. "Their mission was to control the movement of pirate foreign fishing vessels in Guinean waters. But since that date contact has been lost," said a source from the fishing ministry. "Authorities at all levels have launched an SOS to find the agents, in vain," added the source, who asked not to be named. The eight officers are employees of the National Centre for Monitoring and Protection of Fish (NPSC). The fisheries ministry has carried out a search of the ocean and uninhabited islands off the coast of Conakry without results. All ports and docks have been alerted and traditional fishermen were helping in the search,

the source said. The defence ministry has also been called upon to engage the navy in the search and the foreign ministry has alerted Guinean embassies in neighbouring Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. The West African fishing surveillance office in Mauritania has also been put on alert. Guinea and its West African neighbours are often confronted by illegal fishing in their waters by foreign vessels.

Ivory Coast

RPT-Ivorian cocoa farmers: rains hurting quality

Reuters

Light rains and a lack of sun in Ivory Coast's cocoa-growing regions last week augmented fears that beans will be small and of poor quality in the forthcoming main crop, farmers and analysts said on Monday. The correct mix of rain and sunshine is vital to the development of the cocoa crop. Cocoa trees need very wet weather, but they suffer when it is too overcast, because it deprives them of the sunlight they need for photosynthesis. Good rains have boosted cocoa arrivals to figures to beyond last season's levels [ID: nCOC046385]. They are also expected to facilitate an early harvest next season, which officially starts in October but which farmers expect to start by mid-September. But overly wet weather also has hurt bean quality, particularly by spurring epidemics of black pod disease.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone to be leader in organic cocoa

www.globalpost.com

No one in this village wanted to be a cocoa farmer 15 years ago. The labor was hard, the crop was often plagued by disease and sold for lower than market prices. And most farmers ended up in debt because of loans taken out to pay seasonal workers. "We didn't go near the plantation," said Sallieu Mondeh, a cocoa farmer in the village. "We didn't even want our children to be called farmers." But growing cocoa has become much more popular in Sierra Leone as a result of a combination of events that is strengthening the country's hand in the world cocoa market. Sierra Leone is now poised to be a key supplier of organic cocoa to the international market. "Now we're realizing profits," said Aiah Njawa, standing among his eight-acre cocoa farm in Ngiehum, Kono, a district in eastern Sierra Leone. The farm was left to him by his father, but eventually became a costly burden.

Special Court Supplement
Funeral of Samuel Kobna Eyeson
Thursday, 2 September 2010





