

**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:**

Monday, 20 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Ibrahim Tommy  
Ext 7248

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**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Press and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 17 February 2006

### **Special Court Launches International Humanitarian Law Booklet**



The Special Court's Outreach Section has launched a new booklet on international humanitarian law, aimed at increasing knowledge of the obligations of states and combatants during times of conflict.

The booklet, "*Wetin Na Intanashonal Umaniterian Law?*" (International Law Made Simple) was formally unveiled by Sierra Leone's Chief of Defence Staff on Thursday at a ceremony in Freetown attended by Interim Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC and Outreach officials.

The book draws on the expertise of the Special Court's Office of the Prosecutor and Defence Office, the Outreach Section, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. Illustrated with drawings by a local artist, it provides a straightforward and easily understood explanation of the major principles of international humanitarian law.

Outreach Coordinator Binta Mansaray said that the booklet is aimed at Sierra Leoneans with limited literacy or limited knowledge of international humanitarian law.

"We hope to increase Sierra Leoneans knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, helping them understand that even in wartime, soldiers and civilians have rights and obligations," Ms. Mansaray said.

The book complements the Outreach Section's very successful booklet, "*Wetin Na Di Speshal Kot?*" (The Special Court Made Simple) which over the past two years has been distributed to school children and other groups around the country.

Starting today, the initial printing of 1,000 copies will be distributed by Special Court district outreach officers and civil society partners, especially in the provinces.

Eventually, 100,000 copies are to be distributed nationwide.

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

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Mobile: 232 76 655 237

# Special Court Urged To Summon President Kabbah



BY SITTA TURAY

The lawyer representing the second accused, in the ongoing trial of three former CDF chiefs, including Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Mr. Arrow John Bockarie told the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone on Tuesday, 14th February that the testimony of President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in court would provide material assistance in the defense of his client, Mr. Moinina Fofana, who stands

indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. Bockarie argues, President Kabbah's position as Head of State of the Republic of Sierra Leone and as Minister of Defence could help throw light on Mr. Moinina Fofana's alleged greatest responsibility for the commission of crimes against humanity during the war fought by the Kamajors in the restoration of democracy to Sierra Leone. That also includes, according to Mr.

Bockarie, the President providing valuable information on the duties associated with the position of director of war.

He also informed the court of the defence team's attempts to have President Kabbah testify in court, but have not succeeded yet.

Cognizant of Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the Special Court, Mr. Bockarie furthered that the Trial Chamber of the Special Court has the leverage to subpoena President

**CONTINUED PAGE 2**

## Special Court Urged To Summon Kabbah

**FROM PAGE 1**

Kabbah, and as he puts it, "for the preparation and conduct of the trial."

"The President is compellable", he maintained, "because he is a factual witness, and so should stand and testify as a witness", he concluded.

Dr. Bu-Boakei Jabbie, defense lawyer for Chief Sam Hinga Norman, adopted the submissions put by Mr. Bockarie, in addition to relying on the written submissions he earlier made and tendered to the court.

# Profile Of Sam Hinga Norman

Three years, since his indictment by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, Sam Hinga Norman, the country's former Deputy Defense minister, continues to be at the center of attention, in the ongoing war crimes trials of key militia leaders, during the years of civil conflict.

Described by his numerous supporters as a war hero, but vilified by his detractors as leader of a ruthless militia faction, Hinga Norman has become a thorny factor, not only for the peace process, but also the current political divide.

He is an influential member of the ruling SLPP, and still, does command widespread support within the party, and it is even thought, his defection from the party, if he chooses to do so, may adversely affect its chances of returning to power for a third consecutive term.

Already, there is widespread discontentment within party circles, for his indictment at the war crimes court, given that he is considered, as being the main force behind the restoration of constitutional rule in February 1998, after a nine-month interregnum.

Born in 1940, in the southern town of Mongere, Hinga Norman joined the Sierra Leonean army, as a child recruit, before independence in 1961.

His career in the military was as controversial as it was in his days as a politician. For instance, in 1968, he was arrested together with other army officers, and convicted for treason. He spent time in jail and was again arrested in 1974 and detained for 13 months for the same offence of treason.

Hinga Norman shot to prominence in 1997, when a faction of the national army, which styled itself the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (or AFRC),

seized power in a coup d'etat.

He mobilized a militia force, made up mainly of hunters, to resist the junta.

The regime itself was eventually toppled, by a combined force of Norman's militia, and a Nigerian led regional intervention force, after holding on to power for nine months.

Hinga Norman and two former civil militia commanders are currently facing an 8-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity, before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Their trial has generated widespread public interest, not only because of the high profile status of Mr. Norman, but also because his militia force, which helped defeat the rebels, are seen as heroes and liberators, and not, as the war crimes court considers them, suspected criminals.

Exclusive

20 February 2006

## Special Court

# “I Was Initiated By Aliu Kondewa...”

*By Mohamed Kai*

The Special Court witness who hosted the three (CDF) indictees, Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Aliu Kondewa in Talia, Yorubeko Chiefdom, Bonthe

*-P.C Collier*

District, Paramount Chief Mohamed I. Collier has told the Special Court that he was initiated into the kamajor

*Contd. page 2*

## “I Was Initiated By Aliu Kondewa...”

*From front page*

society by Allieu Kondewa.

P.C. Collier told the court that nobody was coerced to be initiated into the kamajor society and that people were initiated into the movement on their own volition.

Responding to questions from Mr Charles Margai, who is the counsel for the third CDF indictee, with regards to evidence adduced by the court that Allieu Kondewa murdered a kamajor militia, Mustapha Kallon in the presence of Chief Norman and Moinina Fofanah burnt his body and the ash used as talisman for the initiation ceremony, the witness denied. He also denied knowledge of the testimony by TF 2-014 on 10 March 2005, that the three CDF indictees murdered a ‘Kapra’ militia called Alpha Kau in an oil palm near Talia and removed his skin for the purpose of kamajor initiation. Collier further disclosed that several meetings were held at ‘Base Zero’ which were attended by district and battalion commanders during which decisions on how the war should be persecuted were taken, adding that he knew Allieu Kondewa and Moinina Fofanah following the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1997 coup at ‘Base Zero.’

He further acknowledged that he knew Mustapha Lomeh in 1997 at ‘Base Zero’ as the logistics officer while Jaiah Kamara was acting in the capacity of Store Keeper but that he never knew about the appointment of Moinina Fofanah to the position of Kamajor War Director although people were referring to him as Director. Paramount Chief Collier concluded that the kamajors finally took over ‘Base Zero’ in 1997 and remained there until the restoration of the democratically elected government of president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and that no human sacrifice was carried out to enhance kamajor initiation.

The trial continues today.

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# “Norman was not involved in ritual sacrifices”

## ...Special Court Witness

A 75 year old man who is a witness at the Special Court Mohammed Jurey Collier last Friday 17 February testified in the on going C.D.F trials, that the first accused Chief Sam Hinga Norman never involved in any ritual sacrifices, at Iaha (Base Zero) Jaamagbongor Chiefdom, in the Southern provinces.

The witness, Collier a former Kamajor testified that the first accused Norman while staying in the town never visited the initiation "Poro" bush to involve in any ritual murder even before the arrival of the letter, there had never been any such practices in the town or 'Poro' bush the witness stated. The witness told the Judges that

neither the first nor the second or third accused persons Norman, Fofanah and Kondewai respectively, had never involved in any ritual practice in the Chiefdom.

He stated that nobody has ever complained to him, as he is one of the elders in the township, about matters relating to ritual sacrifices being perpetrated by any of the three accused persons.

The former Kamajor explained to the Court that the alleged ritual killings of a certain Kamajor fighter and other civilians never occurred, neither did anybody reported the matter to them thinking them to be important figures in the town. "I did not go with Norman to the Poro bush, the witness stressed that none of the three accused persons including him (Collier) were not members of the Poro society. The witness explained that he is a father-in-law to Norman that is how he initially knew the first accused when the latter was a Regent Chief of Jaamagbongor.

Norman and his co-accused persons the witness went on were not the one who determined how the war was to be fought, but rather it was the Kamajor Commanders who posted their fighters to go to the battle field.

The witness told the Judges that his role in the Kamajor had been to host important Government and Kamajor Officials who normally visited the town.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

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# "Norman was not involved in ritual sacrifices"

FRONT PAGE

I was not involved in any military exercise Collier told the Special Court prosecutor.

He narrated that, the third accused Allicu Kondewai who had been one of the initiators never forced anybody to be in-

itiated, but rather he (Allicu) was begged and paid money to do the job. The 75-year old man disclosed to the prosecutor that people including male and female would travel from every corner of the various Districts and Chiefdoms for them to be initiated.

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# Disclosed: Norman, Fofanah and Kondewa never planned war

By Betty Milton

Mr. Mohamed Turay Collier, the third defence witness for Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, last Friday told the Court that Chief Norman, Moininah Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa never planned war in any way.

Giving his evidence at the Trial Chamber I of the Special Court, presided over by Justice Pierre

Boutet, Mr. Collier said he had spent all his years at Talia Yobeko also known as Base Zero and while he was there he never saw or heard the three indictees giving instructions to people on how to fight as that was not their job as alleged by a witness for the prosecution TF2-005.

The 75-year-old man, who is also a common witness to all the three indictees,

explained that when rebels attack a particular town, they would summon all the Kamajors in a field at Base Zero after which they would organize to go to that particular village. This, the witness said, was done by the District Battalion Commander.

Talking about the role of Moininah, the witness said he only heard people calling him Director and he was responsible for the distribution

*Contd. Page 2*

# Norman, Fofanah and Kondewa never planned war

*From Front Page*

of food to the Kamajors which were bought by aircraft other than that he never saw him doing any other role. Mr. Collier, who is also a Chiefdom Committee member, confirmed that at Talia, he knew Alieu Kondewa as a Chief Initiator who never went to war but stayed at Talia to initiate people. The initiation process, he said, was not done forcefully but people volunteered and that some even begged for it.

Mr. Collier earlier told the Court that people were initiated so that they would be protected against bullets and even if someone wanted to

inflict injury on you with a cutlass you could not be hurt.

Continuing, Mr. Collier said after the initiation, the initiate would be lined up in an open place after which they would be shot at and nobody would be killed or wounded. This, he said, was one of the reasons why people wanted to be initiated even those that were not affected by the war.

Answering to specific allegation against the indictees, the witness denied the allegation made by TF2-014 that Kondewa killed an initiate, burnt his remains and then took the ashes to Makosi which was used for

initiation purposes.

Another witness explained that Mustapha Fallon, who was also a Kamajoh, was killed in the Poro Bush near Talia in the presence of the three indictees and that Kondewa told them that Fallon was needed as a human sacrifice to protect the fighters. To this the witness replied that that sort of complaint never reached him or the elders or Paramount Chief.

Another allegation made by a witness TF2-014 one Dauda Kanu that a Kapra was axed to death in an oil plantation and his skin removed, Mr. Collier told the court that, "no complaint was made and I did not see it happen."

# "1997 coup estranged CDF, SLA relationship"

## *...former Kamajor*

*Story: Tanu Jalloh*

Former Kamajor Task Force Commander, Osman Vandi, as fifth witness for the first accused, Sam Hinga Norman in the ongoing CDF trial at Special Court Friday testified that the Armed Forces

Revolutionary Council (AFRC) coup of 25th May 1997 caused serious rift between the 'Kamajors' and the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). He recounted that the Kamajors worked on the command of the SLA until after the coup, which

saw the latter killing everybody suspected to be Kamajors or had wounds on his body.

"We worked on the orders and fought alongside the SLA, manned check points together, and had supplies of arms and ammunition including food from

*Cont. page 3*

## "1997 coup estranged CDF, SLA relationship"

*From page 1*

them. But we had problems following the overthrow of President Kabbah in 1997," he said adding that after the incident SLA captured Kamajors and killed them.

"We were afraid and went into hiding where we starved seriously because the SLA which supplied food had abandoned us. Not too long we started working alongside ECOMOG. Some Kamajors, among them

Daramy Rogers, Borbor Tucker, late Prince Brima (former BBC reporter) and I visited Lungi to discuss the dislodgement of the junta with ECOMOG and President Kabbah," Vandi testified. He said it was agreed at the meeting in Lungi that when once arms and ammunition have been supplied, they should together launch attacks on the positions of the junta and topple the AFRC junta.

He said the ECOMOG contingent under the command of Colonel Maxwell Khobe were formerly handed over to the Kamajors by President Kabbah because according to him the latter knew the terrain.

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## Over Taylor's extradition...

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# US Congress vows not to rebuild Salone, Liberia

*Story: Ibrahim Seibure*

United States of America Congressman, Ed Royce in his statement during the International Relations subcommittee on Africa and International Human Rights Hearing, declared that the interna-

tional community might show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone, should former President Charles Taylor of Liberia continue to evade justice.



Royce says these friends of Liberia have very little interest in providing more money to rebuild Liberia until President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf call on Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo to send Charles Taylor to face trial at the United Nations backed war crime tribunal in Sierra Leone.

"The new Liberian government's road ahead would be far less treacherous, however, and the future of the country and West Africa would be far more secure, if

*Cont. page 3*

### US Congress vows not to rebuild Salone, Liberia

*From page 1*

the warlord who brought so much destruction to the region was forced to face justice before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which has indicted Charles Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his destruction of Sierra Leone," Royce states and maintained that until Taylor is tried, he would continue to plot in seaside Calabar,

Nigeria as he remains a potential agent of destruction in the West African sub-Region.

He recalled that Taylor once said before seeking asylum in Nigeria that he will return to Liberia, and pointed out that Taylor's track record suggests he probably will.

Ed Royce concludes that time is running out on the mandate of the Special Court, of which Taylor understands very well.

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/big\\_news\\_2](http://www.cocorioko.com/big_news_2)

### CONDOLEEZA STILL INTENT ON TAYLOR

Saturday February 19, 2006

While Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the newly-elected President of Liberia, seems to be dragging her feet about demanding Charles Taylor from the custody of Nigeria's leader Olusegun Obasanjo so that he could be handed to the Special Court in Sierra Leone, the United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, has maintained her intent to have the former Liberian rebel leader brought to justice.

Dr. Rice last week renewed her efforts to have Taylor prosecuted when he urged a U.S. Congressional hearing: "We believe very strongly that he ought to be brought to justice, and that he ought to be brought to justice as soon as possible."

Dr. Rice said that the danger still exists that Taylor could still return to Liberia to cause trouble. She therefore urged that the former Liberian President be taken into custody and sent to Freetown to stand trial for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Dr. Rice's statement represents a clear indication that the U.S. government is committed to having Taylor brought to justice in Sierra Leone and will continue to exert pressure on the new Liberian leader, Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf, to do the right thing.

Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf is for now the main key to Taylor's prosecution. because Nigeria's President Obasanjo has clearly stated that only a request from a constitutionally-elected government in Liberia will he hand over Taylor on request. Taylor for the past two years has been living in Calabar, Nigeria, under President Obasanjo's protection. He is accused of importing war to Sierra Leone and contributing to the death of over 50,000 innocent people and the mutilation of thousands more.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has indicted Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity but his prosecution has been bogged down by President Obasanjo's refusal to hand him over, and Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf's refusal to take a clear line of action on the issue has further dampened hopes to prosecute the former Butcher of Gbanga.

Many Liberians are frustrated by the attitude of their new President in the issue of having Taylor brought to justice. Some opinions in Liberian online and print newspapers insist that Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf is afraid to see Taylor stand trial because he would open a can of worms that would tarnish her name.

Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf was alleged to have been one of the key financiers and supporters of the Charles Taylor invasion of Liberia in 1989, which later fuelled a civil war that killed over 200,000 Liberians and destroyed the country.

## **Rice says Liberia's ex-president Taylor should be tried on war crimes allegations**

Source: AP Alert - Defense Date: February 16, 2006

WASHINGTON\_ Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says there is a danger that former Liberian President Charles Taylor could return to his homeland unless he is taken into custody and sent to a U.N. war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone for trial.

"We believe very strongly that he ought to be brought to justice, and that he ought to be brought to justice as soon as possible," Rice said.

Taylor, who has lived in exile in Nigeria since 2003, also should be tried "for reasons of reconciliation and justice," Rice said.

The former president has been indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his activities in Sierra Leone.

Rice discussed the issue during a hearing of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee.

## **Dutch man faces war crimes trial over "blood timber"**

By Stephanie van den Berg

THE HAGUE, Feb 17, 2006 (AFP) - The arrest of Gus Kouwenhoven in the Dutch port of Rotterdam put a face on the worldwide trafficking of "blood timber" which, like "blood diamonds", fuelled recent conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The 63-year-old "Gus", as he is better known, was tracked down last March and provisionally charged with war crimes and the economic offence of breaking a United Nations arms embargo against Liberia.

His trial is expected to start later this year.

"Mr. Gus" is said to be a member of the notorious exiled Liberian strongman Charles Taylor's inner circle and used that volatile west African nation as his personal playground to get rich quick exploiting its extensive forests.

In recent years as the United Nations stepped up pressure and slapped a travel ban on the elusive Kouwenhoven, he sought refuge in the Republic of Congo but managed to travel regularly to residences in Paris and Rotterdam, according to the watchdog organisation Global Witness.

His downfall finally came in the central train station in Rotterdam on a visit home to see his daughter, according to a legal source. David Crane, the prosecutor for the UN-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court, said he assisted Dutch investigators in their bid to net the Dutchman.

On December 23, Kouwenhoven sat nonchalantly at a procedural hearing before a judge in The Hague, wearing a pressed white safari suit and large sunglasses, chatting with his lawyer and occasionally flicking his wrist to reveal a heavy gold watch.

Born on September 15, 1942, according to UN records, Kouwenhoven headed several timber companies in Liberia, which was the scene of a 14-year civil war until Taylor stepped down in 2003 to give a UN-brokered peace process a chance to end the bloodshed.

Since 2000, expert reports filed with the UN Security Council have stressed the key role that timber companies in that West African nation played in conflicts throughout the region -- notably in generating profit for rebels in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in neighbouring Sierra Leone -- to back their calls for a trade embargo.

Kouwenhoven, who headed Liberia's two biggest logging companies, the Oriental Timber Company (OTC) and the Royal Timber Corporation (RTC), and who was a member of Liberia's Forest Development Authority (FDA), was expressly named in the reports.

OTC's concessions alone covered a territory the size of Belgium and constituted 42 percent of the exploitable forests in Liberia, said Global Witness, whose experts will testify for the prosecution in Kouwenhoven's trial.

The company also had its own militia of 2,500 men and its own fleet to export timber and, according to the charges, import arms and munitions on the way back to facilitate Taylor's warmongering.

The former Liberian leader, who has been given asylum in Nigeria, has been indicted by Sierra Leone's war crimes court and is under increasing pressure to stand trial there for sponsoring rebels in that country's gruesome 10-year war.

According to the International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO), commercial logging in Liberia generated up to 20 million dollars (16 million euros) a year in government revenues and some 100 million dollars in exports before the collapse of Taylor's regime.

In 2001, resolution 1343 of the UN Security Council increased pressure on Kouwenhoven, naming him as an arms trader, a financial backer of Taylor's government and a confidant of the president himself.

Along with Kouwenhoven, Russian national Victor Bout also figures on a list of people whose assets were frozen by the United Nations over shady dealings in west Africa.

Bout, who is still on the run, was named in all the UN reports detailing a link between the conflicts in west and central Africa and illegal exploitation of the regions' natural resources.

Records from the Liberian Forest Development Authority show that between 1991 and 2001, China and France were the biggest importers of timber from **Liberia**.

In May 2003, the United Nations finally imposed an embargo on the export of Liberian timber, a ban that remains in place today.

The ITTO, which stressed the immense biodiversity of the Liberian forests with over 240 types of trees, sent a special diagnostic mission to the country last April. The organisation said there had been no inventory undertaken in the last 40 years.

"So many actions are required and so many variables and unknowns exist that it is impossible to elaborate a precise plan of action for the forest sector at present," the timber organisation said in a 2005 report.

The UN Security Council noted in December that the timber concessions given by the Taylor regime had still not been revoked.



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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 18 Feb 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

VOA 17 February 2006

**World Bank Bids Farewell to Longtime Official**

By James Butty  
Washington, DC

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz said even though he was sad that Antoinette Sayeh was leaving the Bank after 17 years of good work, he described the occasion as a celebration for Liberia for electing Africa's first female president. Mr. Wolfowitz talked about the many challenges facing Liberia, but said the country was in good hands with the selection of Ms. Sayeh as finance minister whom he described as a gutsy lady.

"Liberia is blessed, as some other countries are blessed, to have an extraordinary World Bank staffer who is prepared to give up all the comforts of Washington life – all the great restaurants, all the great colleagues and offices, all the good athletic facilities, lights, running water, to go and serve her country."

VOA 17 February 2006

**UNHCR Urges Liberian Refugees to Return Home**

By Joe De Capua  
Washington

The UN refugee agency says it is so encouraged by the positive changes taking place in Liberia that it will now actively call on Liberian refugees to come home. That's a policy shift for the agency in its voluntary repatriation program.

The UNHCR says the recent election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as president is a milestone for democracy and stability in Liberia. Annette Rehl is a spokesperson for the UNHCR. From Monrovia, she spoke to English to Africa reporter Joe De Capua about why the agency will actively promote its voluntary repatriation program.

**International Clips on West Africa**

BBC 17/02/2006

**UN group considers troop return**

A UN-backed international working group is to meet in Ivory Coast to discuss progress towards ending civil war. At their last meeting they recommended the country's National Assembly be dissolved which led to four days of violent demonstrations against the UN.

UN envoy Jan Egeland has visited Guiglo, where UN offices were burned, and said peacekeepers would return only if their safety was guaranteed.



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

### **President Makes New Appointments in Government**

- An Executive Mansion press statement issued in Monrovia said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday appointed Aaron Mathies as Assistant Minister for Trade and Commerce, Moses P. Roberts Sr. as Assistant Minister for Industry at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Meima Sirleaf-Kanneh as Assistant Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Senate Confirmed More Presidential Nominees**

- Senate Press Bureau Director Varney Gbessay said that the Senate yesterday confirmed Jamesetta Howard-Wolokollie as Minister of Youth and Sports, Christopher Toe as Minister of Agriculture, Samuel Kofi Woods as Minister of Labour, Tiawon Gongloe as Solicitor-General, Chris Massaquoi as Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner, Abla Gedegbeku-Williams as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau and Joseph Kerkula as Deputy Immigration Commissioner for Administration.
- Others are Alfred Karley as Deputy Liberia National Police Director for Administration, Gayflor Tarpeh as Deputy Liberia National Police Director for Operations, Pete Norman as Deputy Minister of Commerce and James Hallowangar as Deputy Special Security Services Director for Administration.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Education Minister Wants Budgetary Allotment for Education Disbursed**

- Speaking at a ceremony to takeover as Minister of Education yesterday, Dr. Joseph Korto called on government to utilize the budgetary allotment of 25 percent intended for education to ensure a good beginning for the revival of the system.
- He said that he would improve the salary structure for urban teachers and provide incentives for those in the rural areas.
- Dr. Korto noted that the policies for a standard educational system were well in place but needed to be implemented.
- Out-going Minister Evelyn Kandakai urged the new Minister to continue the Accelerated Learning and Language Programs.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **United States Congressional Delegation Visits Liberia Next Week**

- Briefing reporters following a meeting with United States Ambassador Donald Booth, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe said that a team of U.S. Congressmen would arrive in the country next week to interact with the Liberian government.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone Launches International Humanitarian Law Booklet**

- The United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone has launched a booklet on international humanitarian law intended to increase knowledge of the obligations of States and combatants during armed conflicts.
- The Court's Outreach Coordinator Binta Mansaray said that the booklet would help Sierra Leoneans understand that even in wartime, soldiers and civilians have rights and obligations

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

## **Known Human Rights Campaigner Criticizes Appointment of Former Justice Minister to Supreme Court Bench**

- A pro-democracy group, Liberia Democracy Watch Executive Director Jerome Verdier told journalists yesterday that it was troubling that former Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh has been appointed to the Supreme Court Bench.
- He argued that the former Justice Minister possesses an unclean human rights record as he supported the illegal detention of several citizens of Grand Bassa County and was yet to practice law for the required five years before the Supreme Court.
- Cllr. Verdier urged President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to withdraw former Minister Ja'neh's appointment, the Liberian Senate should not confirm him or that he should decline the position. He also contended that the new Supreme Court Bench comprises of two persons that hail from the same county in contravention of the Liberian Constitution.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

## **Liberians Applaud Ailing Catholic Archbishop**

- Callers to a live radio talk show yesterday described ailing Archbishop Michael Francis as a great man who stood as the voice of the voiceless in the search for peace during the civil conflict. They expressed their love and admiration for the countless contribution he made to ensure that there was reconciliation and social justice.
- The callers attested that the Archbishop stood the test of time with integrity and served as a role model for many youths and praised him for setting the finest standard of community service, preached and practiced tolerance and spiritual development.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

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

### **Former President Threatened By Ex-Combatants**

- During his meeting with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the Executive Mansion yesterday, former President Moses Blah appealed to the government to protect him as members of the disbanded Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) allegedly threaten his life daily. He said that the former militias demand that he pay them for the two months he served as President of Liberia.

## **STAR RADIO** *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

### **Civic Education Workshop for Rural Reporters Opened in Margibi County**

- A workshop organized for rural reporters has started in Margibi County under the auspices of the Press Union of Liberia and the National Endowment for Democracy. The workshop will expose 20 journalists from 10 rural radio stations to techniques to enhance civic education.

### **National Security Arrest Alleged Gold Smuggler**

- In an interview yesterday, National Security Ministry Economic Crime Director Samuel Kogar said that one Moluba Kpaunan was arrested and charged with gold smuggling in Ganta, Nimba County adding that the culprit was arrested with more than 100 grams of gold valued at LD\$100,000.

*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).*