

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



**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:**

Friday, 20 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Ext 7217

## Local News

Defence Concludes Cross-Examination of Witness... / *Standard Times* Pages 3-4

## International News

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Security Council Demands Action to End Sexual Violence as a Tactic in War / *UN* Pages 10-11

UN Classifies Rape a 'War Tactic' / *BBC* Pages 12-13

DR Congo Ex-Warlord 'May Go Free' / *BBC* Pages 14-15

On Monday, Defense Counsel Morris Anya concluded cross-examination of Witness TF1-577, Albert Hindowa Saidu a.k.a Abor, a.k.a. Uprising, in the case of the Prosecutor of the Special Court vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor. Defense first continued Friday's line of questioning about errors in statements made in March and October 2007 to members of the Prosecution team. The witness maintained that this is not what he had told the prosecution, and though he did sign the statements, it was the Prosecution's error.

The Defense then attempted to undermine the witness's prior testimony that Sam Bockarie had sent him to Foya Tenga with a letter for Jungle requesting ammunition from Charles Taylor. Mr. Anya implied that it was unusual to send someone as low-ranking as the witness on such an important trip, especially given that Bockarie had the ability to communicate via radio with Monrovia. The witness responded that the reason might have had to do with monitoring of radio conversations. Mr. Anya also raised doubts about why the witness was chosen by Issa Sesay to take an important letter to General 50 in Vahun, Liberia, when the witness had never directly served under Sesay. The witness could not

explain why Sesay chose him or why General 50 would disclose important information to the witness, whom he had never met. The witness did reveal that after the intervention in February 1998, any supplies of materials that allegedly came from Liberia consisted only of ammunition and not arms. Defense counsel next questioned the witness about the directive to attack and burn down Gaya and Yengema, a directive allegedly issued by Foday Sankoh. Mr. Anya contrasted the ideology training on treatment of civilians and civilian property with Saidu's testimony that Sankoh allegedly gave this order to burn down towns. The witness indicated that ideology training provided that anyone who burnt down civilian property was to be punished, and the source of this ideological training was the Supreme Leader himself, Foday Sankoh. Saidu agreed that Sankoh's approach to civilians was "good," meaning he cared about civilians and wanted to minimize the extent of harm caused to civilians and civilian property. Saidu then admitted that he never heard that Foday Sankoh had given the order or directive to burn down Gaya and Yengema, only that Captain Ben had attacked and burnt them down, and this was consistent with the directive that he saw in court. However, the witness had no direct or indirect knowledge that Sankoh himself ordered the attack.

Mr. Anya then questioned the witness about whether the RUF had a source of arms and ammunition other than Liberia after 1995/1996 and about whether the wit-

## Something To Think About

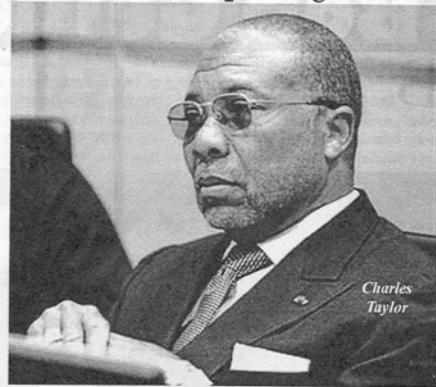
BY  
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### Defense concludes cross-examination of Witness TF1-577, Albert Hindowa Saidu a.k.a Abor, a.k.a. Uprising

ness had ever been ordered to go exchange diamonds for arms with ULIMO-K. The witness denied this, stating he had never heard that the RUF acquired weapons from ULIMO-K. Mr. Anya read testimony by a previous witness - TF1-516 - who indicated that the RUF had bought ammunition from ULIMO-K in early 1997, of which the witness was not aware.

The Defense next engaged in a long back-and-forth exchange with the witness, at times to the point of quibbling over misunderstandings, concerning when the 40-barrel missile was captured from the Guineans (before 1997) and when Charles Taylor allegedly sent Liberians to repair it (1999/2000). Mr. Anya eventually established that the RUF was in possession of this weapon for 2-3 years before Liberians were sent to repair it.

tain Ben being punished for the attack, among other things. At one point, when the Prosecution tried to clarify some confusion created by the cross-examination concerning the secret forum meeting discussing Issa Sesay and lost diamonds, Mr. Werner came very close to impeaching the credibility of his own witness. Judge Sebutinde asked the witness whether he was disappointed that the Sesay Defense had not called him as a witness, to which Saidu responded that he just didn't understand why he had been withdrawn as a witness. The Presiding Judge asked Saidu about what happened to the land mines he testified were brought to Sierra Leone, which he indicated were set before Sierra Leone government soldiers. Although the witness indicated there were victims when the land mines exploded, he said



months after the intervention. He then spent three months traveling to Monrovia, Liberia, where he stayed as a civilian.

Yeaten's house for two days, after which Marzah allegedly radioed Sam Bockarie in Buedu to inquire about the witness's identity.

The witness also testified to seeing drying human flesh that Marzah and others were eating. Marzah apparently told the witness that they had captured two APC tanks and a 40-barrel gun and that the witness would be useful in terms of artillery training.

o Later, Sam Bockarie arrived in Monrovia and was able to identify the witness. Saleh, a Lebanese business man, also arrived with two other Arab nationals. Bockarie had brought three mayonnaise bottles full of diamonds, which Saleh and the two Arabs divided and handed over to Benjamin Yeaten. Yeaten then allegedly said they would go and get ammunition to use in the 40-barrel gun.

o The witness described an incident that occurred while Bockarie was staying in Monrovia. ZigZag brought a human hand to Bockarie and said "Master, mission accomplished." The witness had heard this was a woman who Bockarie had suspected of being a spy.

o The witness was soon after taken to the office of the Protocol Officer, Cisse Musa, in the Mansion (Office of the President), where he met with Charles Taylor. Taylor allegedly welcomed him to the "home of the revolution" and indicated the witness would receive further instructions from Cisse Musa. Taylor also allegedly said that the witness would start as a one-star General, and if he proved his loyalty, would go farther than that. He then gave Musa an envelope, later given to the witness, which contained \$1500.

o The witness described a trip with Sam Bockarie, Eddie Kanneh, Cisse Musa, General Ibrahim (a Gambian in the Liberian army) and Colonel Razak to Burkina Faso on an airplane flown

CONTINUED PAGE 14

### The witness testified that Marzah and Eddie Kanneh took him to a compound near Charles Taylor's house, where he allegedly met Benjamin Yeaten, director of the SSS for Taylor

The Defense then turned to how Sam Bockarie attempted to rejoin the RUF after he left in early 1999 and the witness's knowledge about Charles Taylor's relationship with Bockarie. In contrast to the implications of the witness's testimony - that Taylor supported the continuation of fighting - Mr. Anya emphasized the constructive role Charles Taylor played in facilitating the Lomé Peace Accord. The witness did confirm that Taylor and the RUF broke ties from 2001 onward, when Taylor disagreed with Issa Sesay about the return of Sam Bockarie to Sierra Leone and the RUF.

Mr. Anya then sought to undermine the witness's character by asking whether at any point during his 10 years with the RUF, he had attempted to leave (which, except for thinking about escaping in 1991, he had not) and whether he had a small boys or small girls unit working for him. The witness testified that he did have a SBU under his supervision, though he denied that he ever sent them to fight. The witness also admitted to taking civilian property without the consent of the owner but denied having ever raped anyone. On re-direct, Mr. Werner questioned the witness about the attack on Gaya and Yengema by Captain Ben, and whether he had knowledge of Cap-

tain he was not actually present when any were detonated.

#### Direct and Cross-Examination of protected Prosecution Witness TF1-539

Prosecution Counsel Nicholas Koumjian called the next witness, TF1-539, a protected witness who testified in Krio with video and voice distortion. Trial Chamber II held a brief closed session then resumed open session the next day. During direct examination, the witness recounted his experiences from 1991 until after the signing of the Lomé Accord. During testimony, the following events were described:

o In 1993, the witness was a second lieutenant in the Sierra Leone Army, fighting against the RUF and Liberian Gios in Kailahun District. He described seeing checkpoints with amputated heads and limbs; from notes placed in the mouths of the amputated heads, he learned that the dead were people who fought for but had betrayed Foday Sankoh.

o After the 1997 coup in Freetown, the witness went to Freetown. He started working with the AFRC and was later sent to Tongu until the end of the AFRC regime. Because of advancing Kamajor forces, the witness testified to fleeing to Foya, Lofa County, around three

o In January 1999, the witness heard Sam Bockarie over the BBC saying that Freetown had been captured by the AFRC/RUF. At this point the witness had run out of money so he went to see a friend in Monrovia - Matilda Johnson - who had been a general in the NPFL.

o At this point, the witness met some Sierra Leoneans who introduced him to Colonel ZigZag Marzah. Marzah told the witness that the Sierra Leoneans he was with were not his brothers' and had alleged that he was a spy sent by the Kabbah government to see whether the Taylor government was supporting the RUF. Marzah told the witness he was the commander for the death squad and allegedly showed the witness a picture of a mutilated woman - a Sierra Leonean spy. The original photograph of the mutilated woman could not be located. The court accepted the copy but cautioned that counsel should try to avoid this type of problem in the future.

o The witness testified that Marzah and Eddie Kanneh took him to a compound near Charles Taylor's house, where he allegedly met Benjamin Yeaten, director of the SSS for Taylor. The witness was locked in a room in

## Defense concludes cross-examination of Witness TF1-577, Albert Hindowa Saidu a.k.a Abor, a.k.a. Uprising

by two white men the witness thought was Russians. The witness was able to identify the plane and the two men in photographs shown to him by the Prosecution.

o After landing in Burkina Faso, a Gambian General, Koqwai Samba, met the plane

and took them to the house of the Liberian Ambassador. Eddie Kanneh and Sam Bockarie allegedly left for France for three days. The witness described going to a warehouse that belonged to the Burkinabe armed forces, where they identified the weapons that they needed to bring back to Liberia. The Burkina military loaded five vehicles with ammunition and loaded them onto the plane, which was then flown by the same pilots back to Liberia. The witness did not know what happened with the ammunition brought from Burkina Faso, but confirmed recognizing some of it when he was later in Sierra Leone.

o After returning to Monrovia, the witness traveled with Sam Bockarie to Buedu,

Sierra Leone. At one point Bockarie threatened to shoot the witness, but Jungle and some other SSS men prevented him from doing so. After arriving in Buedu, the witness was put in a dungeon with Dr. Jalloh, Philip Palmer, Sankoh's wife and others. Palmer told the witness he had been there for years.

o After the Lomé Accord was signed, the witness testified to traveling with Issa Sesay to Kono, where he was made Intelligence Officer in charge of the Second Brigade. Sesay at this time was allegedly staying in Kono, monitoring the diamond mining.

o When Mosquito Spray (a commander of the LURD rebels) cut off the RUF supply

route in Kono, Bockarie allegedly sent a message that all fighters in Kono should move to clear the ULIMO from Foya, saying that that was an order he received from Taylor.

Defense Counsel Mr. Terry Munyard conducted the cross-examination of the protected witness. Cross-examination proved to be difficult, as the witness often did not directly answer the questions put to him and the defense had to repeatedly ask the question again. On a number of occasions the Presiding Judge had to remind the witness that he was to answer the question as put to him. Much of the cross-examination focused on inconsistencies between the witness's testimony in court and his prior statements and notes from interviews conducted by the Prosecution. There were numerous details that the witness admitted were incorrect, and that he had never told the Prosecution. As with

other witnesses, the Defense pursued a strategy of questioning the professionalism of investigators in the Office of the Prosecutor. For instance, Mr. Munyard expressed his concern over the Prosecution's method of conducting their preparatory sessions, in



that the Prosecution officials seemed to be placing themselves in the position of, or speaking for, the witness when recording statements or taking notes during interviews, which according to Mr. Munyard is incompatible with the role of trial counsel. As with other witnesses, the Defense cross-examination began with how the witness came into contact with the OTP. The witness revealed that his name had been mentioned by an unnamed ex-combatant to Alfred Sesay of the Sierra Leonean police in a statement. The witness was not aware that his name was going to be given and he testified that he was 'scared' because he did not want to be associated with the Court at that time. The witness then testified that he was not reimbursed for travel expenses the first two times he came to Freetown and that he was not told at first that

and confusing testimony about whether the photograph of the mutilated woman was one that Marzah had used to threaten the witness (as he had testified during direct examination) or one the witness had simply picked up when it dropped from Marzah's pocket. Mr. Munyard also expressed skepticism about how the witness had retained possession of this particular photograph when he had left most of his personal effects and clothing behind in Monrovia. Mr. Munyard seemed to imply that it couldn't be a mere 'coincidence' that the one pair of khaki pants he happened to bring with him was the pair in which he had placed the photograph. He also questioned how the witness then managed to lose track of the original photograph since speaking with officials at the Court. Over the course of a day and a half, Mr. Munyard painstakingly went through

### The witness testified that the 'objective' of the training was to go to Sierra Leone and fight. Those who did not agree to be recruited were allegedly subject to constant harassment or intimidation

the investigators wanted information from him to prosecute Taylor. The Defense then spent a considerable period of time questioning the witness about the suspicions individuals in Monrovia had concerning whether the witness was a spy for the Kamajors. After a prolonged barrage of questions, the witness admitted that he was accused of being a spy by a Sierra Leonean named Bamie on the first day, ZigZag Marzah on the second day and then effectively threatened with death and imprisonment. The witness confirmed that when he first met Marzah, he showed Marzah his certificate for artillery training and that Marzah then kept the military documents. Mr. Munyard compared this testimony with his statement earlier in the week that the witness himself had retained possession of his military documents. The witness also could not confirm whether Marzah actually read the military documents. Mr. Munyard revealed that Marzah had told this court that he cannot read or write and implied that the witness was fabricating the story about how he met Marzah. The Defense also demonstrated that there was conflicting

notes and transcripts of interviews and preparatory sessions conducted with the investigators for the OTP. He asked the witness to identify facts that he did tell the investigators were incorrect, but nonetheless were found in these documents. In each instance, the Defense implied that the investigators had invented these facts and had conducted unprofessional preparatory sessions. The Defense next pursued a line of questioning intended to cast doubt on the witness's testimony concerning the meetings he was privy to in Monrovia and the alleged links between Charles Taylor and the RUF. For instance, the Defense raised doubts about why Eddie Kanneh and ZigZag Marzah (two "important people") would get into a heated argument over the witness, given that he was not an 'important person.' The Defense also questioned the witness's story that he had met with Charles Taylor shortly after meeting ZigZag Marzah. The witness had indicated that the warm reception he received had to do with the fact that he was an artillery officer, but Mr. Munyard implied that Taylor had plenty of trained artillery officers he

could send to support the RUF if he wanted to, given that the Armed Forces of Liberia had many artillery officers who had

trained in the U.S. and had 20 or more years of experience. The Defense expressed skepticism that it was on the basis of an illiterate man's (Marzah's) reading of the witness's military documents that he was taken to meet the President of Liberia, who then made him a one-star General in the SSS. Mr. Munyard suggested that this entire sequence of events was a "tissue of lies," but the witness maintained his story was true.

The Defense also questioned the veracity of the witness's testimony about the three jars of diamonds brought by Bockarie, reading back conflicting notes and statements from prior meetings with the Prosecution's investigators. For instance, early interview notes indicated that the diamonds came from three cardboard boxes and not jars, as the witness maintained. Mr. Munyard asked whether it was 'pure coincidence' that notes correcting the type of containers holding the diamonds were only made after Moses Blah testified about seeing diamonds in mayonnaise jars. Additionally, the witness had first mentioned

Varmuya Sherif only three weeks ago; Sherif had testified earlier in the year about mayonnaise jars full of diamonds. The witness maintained that he had always told the Prosecution that the diamonds were in jars, and

examination, the Prosecution attempted to clarify some confusion about the year in which the witness allegedly traveled to Burkina Faso, with reference to important events such as the Lomé Accord rather than specific dates, which the witness admitted he had difficulty remembering.

Prosecution Direct Examination of Protected Witness TF1-590

On Thursday afternoon, Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths put forth and the Court granted a request that the accused be excused from Court on Friday in order to move his location and belongings to another detention center. Prosecution Counsel Mohamed Bangura then called the next prosecution witness, TF1-590, a protected witness testifying in English with facial but not voice distortion. During a brief closed session, the Court agreed that the witness would refer to some individuals by number during open session. These individuals are persons who may, through association, reveal the identity of the witness. Opposing counsel and the bench retained lists of the names corresponding to the numbers used by the witness. During direct examination in open session, the witness testified that he was a businessman in Kenema in February 1998, when he left with this family and crossed the Liberian border to Voinjama. The witness testified to running a business - a kiosk - in the center of Voinjama, visited by both Liberian security forces and the RUF. The witness recounted one discussion he heard about RUF commanders recruiting people for training in Gbangma with Chucky Taylor, who the witness testified was Charles Taylor's son and head of the Liberian Anti-Terrorist Unit. The witness testified that the 'objective' of the training was to go to Sierra Leone and fight. Those who did not agree to be recruited were allegedly subject to constant harassment or intimidation. The witness indicated that apart from recruiting people in Voinjama, the RUF was like any other security force in Liberia. The witness also testified to seeing an airplane in a nearby airfield, out of which RUF soldiers were unloading arms, ammunition and other supplies, allegedly to be taken to Sierra Leone. In early 1999, after Voinjama was attacked, the witness testified to leaving for Monrovia with his family. At a checkpoint along the way, the witness was taken by Chucky Taylor and his ATU soldiers to Gbangma for refusing to return to Voinjama. The witness recounted Chucky Taylor shooting four individuals and then cutting off and mounting their heads at the checkpoint. The witness was then taken to Gbatata base, where Chucky Taylor said they should be held in pits in the swamp; they were then allegedly beaten by the ATU. The witness recounted two escape attempts. After the first attempt, the witness described Chucky Taylor ordering an ATU soldier to cut off the head of the captive with whom the witness had escaped. At this point, the witness requested to take a break and walk around in order to compose himself. After the second escape attempt, the witness was taken to Monrovia at Charles Taylor's request.

they had simply recorded it incorrectly. The witness also indicated that during the preparatory sessions, members of the Prosecution team were making handwritten notes. Mr. Munyard noted that the Prosecution had told the Defense repeatedly that there were no handwritten notes, and that such records should be disclosed. Regarding the witness's testimony about his trip to Burkina Faso to pick up arms and ammunition, the Defense questioned why the witness would be invited on this trip, when General Ibrahim was extremely knowledgeable about artillery and could identify the weapons needed without the help of the witness. Mr. Munyard suggested the witness was lying about going on this trip. The Defense also indicated that Liberia did not have an embassy or ambassador in Burkina Faso, so the witness could not have stayed in the Liberian ambassador's residence. The witness maintained that Cisse Musa had told him it was the Liberian ambassador's house, and that Cisse's late brother, Gibba Cisse, was the ambassador. Defense indicated that Gibba Cisse was actually the Liberian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. On re-

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
19 June 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Murder Suspects in deadly land dispute transfer to Monrovia**

*(The News, New Vision, Daily Observer, The Analyst, Heritage, Liberian Express)*

- Margibi County Senator Roland Kaine and 13 other suspected murderers in the bloody land dispute have been transferred from Kakata to the Monrovia Central Prison.
- Authorities at the Kakata Magisterial Court said Senator Kaine and his co-defendants were transferred because of the security nature of the case in Kakata. More than a thousand people turned up at the Court on Wednesday to witness the indictment proceedings but were told the suspects had been transferred to Monrovia.
- The Liberian Express newspaper supported speculations that Senator Kaine's lawyer is contemplating filing a bond to seek the release of his client pending the trial. Murder is a capital offense which is notailable under the Liberian law. But the defense lawyer, according to the Liberian Express, said circumstances surrounding the charges of murder against Kaine areailable under the law. "Where proof is not evident and presumption not great, one charged with a capital offense is entitled to bail under the law," Counselor Marcus Jones contended.
- The public is particularly keen to know the outcome of the investigation. The editorials of three of the 11 newspapers [the New Vision and The News] which appeared on the newsstand today commended the government for swiftly handling the investigation but insisted on the conduct of a free and fair trial.
- The Senator is among 14 people charged with murder in connection with the killings of at least 19 people following a deadly land dispute in Timour, a town along the border with Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties.

**Secretary-General Ban Sees the Real UN**

*(The News, Liberian Express and New Vision)*

- The News, Liberian Express and New Vision newspapers published an article entitled: "The Real UN;" reflecting Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's perception of the United Nations, particularly at the helm of the World Body in less than a year. "Detractors often call the United Nations a talking shop, home to 192 nations and where, it's memorably been said, no issue is too small to be debated endlessly.... But the real UN, almost invisible to the general public, is an action-oriented UN..... Let us remember that talking sometimes achieves things too....," he said.

**Security Council wants Mandate of Liberia Panel Extended**

*(New Vision)*

- [sic] The Security Council has asked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to renew the mandate of the United Nations panel looking into the issues of diamonds, timber, sanctions, arms and security in Liberia for another six months. In a unanimously adopted resolution, the Council also requested Mr. Ban to reappoint the Panel of Experts and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support its work. The 15-member body also called on all States

and the Government of Liberia to "cooperate fully with the Panel of Experts in all the aspects of its mandate." The panel was appointed by the Secretary-General in July 2007 to investigate whether UN sanctions against Liberia are being broken, after learning of allegations that former president Charles Taylor may still have access to considerable wealth. It is also tasked with assessing the implementation of forestry legislation signed into law last October by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and with gauging the Government's compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, a mechanism established to keep "blood diamonds" from reaching world markets. The Council also highlighted the importance of the continuing assistance of the UN's peacekeeping missions in Liberia (UNMIL) and Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to the work of the Panel and to Security Council committee monitoring the sanctions on Liberia.

### **Investigation into Stadium Disaster Stalls**

(The Inquirer, The Monitor, Daily Observer)

- Reports carried in The Inquirer, The Monitor and the Daily Observer newspapers suggest that investigation into the death of 10 football fans while attending a match between the Lone Star of Liberia and The Gambia on 1 June 2008 has been stalled. The head of the investigation committee, Augustine Toe, blamed the Liberia Football Association, the Sports Writers Association and the Lone Star Mobilization Committee for hindering the speedy adjudication of the incident. He said these organizations were delaying in presenting their account of the stadium disaster to the committee.
- But the Sports Writers Association attributed its apparent delay to the late arrival of the communication from the committee.

### **Retired Liberian Soldiers Form NGO**

(Daily Observer)

- Some retired officers and members of the former Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have organized themselves and formed a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Liberia Veterans Development Programme (LIVEDPRO). The purpose of the new group is to engage the development and general welfare of former members of the AFL who were retired under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The organization also intends to seek counseling and employment opportunities for the ex-soldiers.

### **President Sirleaf Supports Union of Africa**

(The News, Daily Observer, The Analyst, Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says Liberia is in agreement with the principles of a Union of Africa. She has however stressed the need for the continent to develop a road map which will lead to the formation of such a union. The President spoke Thursday in Cotonou, Benin, at the end of the 10th Summit of Heads of States of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD).
- During the summit, the Liberian leader and her counterparts signed three treaties aimed at promoting cooperation amongst member states. These included 'the common non-aggression treaty', 'the youth promotion treaty' and 'the governance, democracy and elections treaty'. She also emphasized that Liberia supports CENSAD in principle and further pledged her full support to Beninois President Thomas Yayi Boni who becomes the new Chairman of CENSAD.
- At the end of the Summit, the Heads of States agreed to work towards the establishment of a Union Government in order to reach a United States of Africa. They also declared their effective commitment to see to the realization of this goal after the African Union Summit in its upcoming session in the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- The CENSAD Heads of States finally called on all African countries to respond to this call, aimed at the realization of an African Government. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) also admitted three members during the summit, thus increasing its membership

from 25 to 28 countries. Countries admitted included Mauritania, Kenya and Sao Tome and Principe.

### **Ellen Wants Humanitarian Phases Ended**

(New Democrat)

- [sic] President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has told the UN Refugee Agency that it's time to end the humanitarian phase of their work after more than a decade and a half and enter the development phase, according to the UNHCR.

### **Liberian Leader says Security will be Beefed up to Combat Crimes**

(National Chronicle)

- [sic] President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says she is doing everything possible to ensure the safety of each Liberian. In this regard, she says she is ensuring that the police and other elements of the security apparatus are provided the requisite logistics to enable them carry out more effective patrols.

### **Liberian Kids Crave Access to Education – Celebrate Day of African Child**

(The Informer, The Analyst, The Inquirer, The Monitor)

- Liberian children the across the country on Monday celebrated this year's Day of the African Children with a call for policy makers to give them access to education.
- In Monrovia, the UN Radio organized activities for the children, spanning music, dance and the arts. The children took the airwaves for the day. Children from the Liberia School for the Blind and those from 15 orphanages, as well as others from various schools around Monrovia took part in two days of rehearsals for the various programmes that were broadcast in the day. During the live programmes, the children interviewed policy makers and UN officials about access to education and other opportunities for children.

## **Radio Summary**

### **Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 10:00 am)*

#### **Security Council Urges UN Chief to Renew Panel Monitoring Sanctions**

*(Also reported on ELBC and Truth FM)*

#### **Another Land Dispute at Rivercess, Nimba Border**

- Report from Rivercess County says tension is brewing over a parcel land in Dehka Town near the border with Nimba County.
- The Chairman of the Morweh Statutory District Development Committee said one David Johnson from Zansay Town in Nimba is claiming land on the Rivercess side of the border.
- According to Mr. Gahn Wahkpa Sawah Mr. Johnson has already planted rubber on the fifteen acres of their land.
- Mr. Sawah said Mr. Johnson threatened that any attempt to temper with his farm will meet up with stiff resistance.
- Mr. Sawah told Star Radio, people on the area have abandoned some of their self help projects due to threats from Mr. Johnson.
- He said following the threats, they complained to their Legislators from Rivercess but no action has been taken.
- When contacted, Rivercess Senator George Moore confirmed the land dispute in the area. Senator Moore however, said the issue is under discussion between Legislators of Nimba and Rivercess Counties.
- Already, 14 people including a senator are charged with murder following a deadly land dispute which left at least 19 people dead in Timour, a town along the border with Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties.
- Last month, another land dispute in the south-east of the country saw two people killed after the inhabitants of two towns attacked each other with machetes.

## **President Sirleaf in Agreement with Principles of Union of Africa**

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, ELBC)*

### **Three Persons Arrested in Sex Scandal at Guthrie – Police Search for 27 others**

- Three persons have been arrested at the Guthrie Rubber Plantation after the committee set up to investigate the wave of students' pregnancy at the plantation submitted its report Wednesday to Bomi County Superintendent Mohammed Massaley.
- The County Attorney of Bomi Nkruman Tickey said the three persons are among those who impregnated the 30 students.
- He said the search continues for the remaining 23 culprits.
- According to the County Attorney, the perpetrators include five male tapers, five senior staff of the Guthrie management team, one aid worker and three unknown persons.
- Meanwhile, members of the committee have reportedly been threatened with attacks at night by some of the alleged perpetrators if their names were disclosed.
- The alleged perpetrators include students, teachers, the plantation's staff and outsiders.
- The committee's report indicates that the number of female students impregnated at the School has increased from 26 to 30.

### **Liberia Launches Nation-wide Agriculture Programme**

- The Liberian Government Thursday launched its back to the soil campaign across the country. The official ceremony for the launch was held at the SKD Sports Complex in Paynesville.
- The launch began with a parade and climaxed with a resolution from local farmers and a special statement by the President.
- Agriculture Minister Dr. Chris Toe named the objective of the campaign as making the awareness of high prices of food and the impact on Liberia.
- The campaign is to also encourage Liberians to go back to the soil by involving in farming activities at all levels.
- Dr. Toe again spoke of efforts by government to address the hike and support local farmers.
- The Agriculture Minister said as a result of the support, productivity has increased for rice and cassava.
- Dr. Toe however, acknowledged there is still a challenge as the productivity level is yet to meet pre-war status.
- Experts say Liberia was up to sixty percent self-sufficient in food production before the civil war.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, ELBC)*

### **Three killed in tragic motor accident in Grand Cape Mount**

- Report from Grand Cape Mount County says a tragic motor accident has left two persons dead in Garwolo District.
- A truck marked TT-0656 travelling from Gola Konneh to Monrovia somersaulted at the Gonzoeduah Bridge in the district.
- A local journalist in Grand Cape Mount said the truck was carrying planks also had nine people on board.
- According to him, the seven survivors who are in critical condition have been taken to the Sinje Health Centre pending transferred to Monrovia.

### **Anti-human trafficking seminar opens in Monrovia**

- An anti-human trafficking seminar has opened in Monrovia with 25 officers of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization participating.
- The three-day event is being facilitated by Save the Children, World Hope International and the Bureau of Immigration.
- The 25 immigration officers are being trained in anti-human trafficking procedures, identification and crime detection.



- The Director of Anti-Human Trafficking at the BIN said instances of human trafficking were prevalent along Liberia's borders.
- Colonel Anthony Bernard however, said some of the noticeable cases are difficult to handle because suspects easily identify victims as family members.
- Observers believe capacity building for post-conflict immigration officers is vital but equipping them to effectively do the job is key to border control.

### **Media Group Recommends cordon and search for illegal arms**

- The Christian Media Centre has called for a cordon and search operation in the country. The centre believes there are people in the country who are illegally in possession of arms.
- The group's Executive Director Philip Sandi said the revelation that the alleged perpetrators in the recent bloody land dispute used AK-47 rifles is a clear indication.
- Mr. Sandi said the cordon and search operation would unearth hidden weapons in the country.
- The faith-based media group also calls the immediate arming of the Police to help law enforcement agency quickly respond to any incident.
- Mr. Sandi said the Police do not respond quickly to crime due to the lack of weapons and can not fight the criminals who are well armed.

### **Government discloses plan to teach local languages**

- The Ministry of Education has disclosed plans to begin the teaching of indigenous languages in Liberian schools.
- Education Minister Joseph Korto said when introduced, the languages would be taught at the elementary level.
- Dr. Korto said it was not necessary to only teach children foreign materials that have no relevance to their culture heritage.
- Minister Korto pointed out that if the trend is not changed, the educational system would do what he called injustice to the Liberian society. He also called on advocacy groups in the country to go beyond just advocating for the rights of children.
- Dr. Korto urged the advocacy groups to undertake meaningful programs that could impact the lives of both children and parents. The Education Minister spoke Wednesday when he received one thousand Life Skills-Based Education Teacher's Guides from the United Nations Family Planning Agency.
- Meanwhile, UNFPA'S Country Representative, Rose Gakuba said the teacher's guides are intended for key subjects including Science, Biology, Social Studies and Mathematics.
- Madam Gakuba said the project to develop the Guides was implemented by the School Health Division at the ministry with support from the UNDFPA. She believes the project would give school going children the ability to act, using the knowledge as a vehicle for attitude and behavior change.

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## United Nations News Centre

Thursday, 19 June 2008

### **Security Council demands action to end sexual violence as a tactic in war**

19 June 2008 – The Security Council today demanded that all sides to armed conflicts around the world stop using violence against women as a tactic of war and take much tougher steps to protect women and girls from such attacks.

In a resolution adopted unanimously after a day-long debate on women, peace and security, Council members said women and girls are consistently targeted during conflicts “as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group.”

The effect is to also prolong or deepen conflicts and to exacerbate already dire security and humanitarian conditions, particularly when the perpetrators of violent crimes against women go unpunished for their actions.

The resolution demands that all parties immediately stop sexual violence against civilians and begin taking measures, from the training of troops and upholding of military discipline procedures, to protect women and girls.

Sexual violence crimes should be excluded from amnesties reached at the end of conflicts, the 15-member Council added, calling on States to also strengthen their judicial and health-care systems to provide better assistance to victims of violence.

The resolution was adopted after dozens of speakers told the Council about the appalling effects of sexual violence during armed conflicts, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon saying the problem had reached “unspeakable and pandemic proportions” in some countries.

Mr. Ban announced he will soon appoint a UN envoy tasked entirely with advocating for an end to violence against women.

Opening today’s meeting, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the truest test of the will of the international community was the protection it gave to the most vulnerable.

“When women and girls are raped, we cannot be silent... we must be their advocates,” Ms. Rice said.

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana C. Dlamini Zuma called for “the silence” around sexual violence to be broken. Many women were afraid to speak out about their ordeal, the minister said, because they were so traumatized and stigmatized by the crimes they endured.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Slovenia’s Sanja Štiglic stressed the need for a gender-sensitive approach to post-conflict countries, from awareness training for judges and court staff to stepped-up efforts to ensure that women’s voices are heard in decision-making processes.

Philomène Omatuku Atshakawo, Minister of Gender, Family and Children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where sexual violence has reached epidemic levels in the east of the country, said such violence was leading to the feminization of poverty.

Female victims were no longer able to work the land or work at all, she said, adding that as a result the Government was trying to introduce a range of measures – economic, security and psychosocial among them – to ameliorate the situation.

China's Liu Zhenmin backed the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation of women and girls by UN peacekeepers and urged troop-contributing countries to boost their training and monitoring of their blue helmets.

BBC

Friday, 20 June 2008

## UN classifies rape a 'war tactic'

**The UN Security Council has voted unanimously in favour of a resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war.**

The document describes the deliberate use of rape as a tactic in war and a threat to international security.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said violence against women had reached "unspeakable proportions" in some societies recovering from conflict.

The UN is also setting up an inquiry to report next June on how widespread the practice is and how to tackle it.

Human-rights group hailed the resolution as historic.

### 'Silent war'

The BBC's Laura Trevelyan said China, Russia, Indonesia and Vietnam had all expressed reservations during the negotiations, asking whether rape was really a matter for the UN security council.

But the US-sponsored resolution was adopted unanimously by the 15-member council.

It described sexual violence as "a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group".

The document said that the violence "can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security".

During the debate in the council, Mr Ban said: "Responding to this silent war against women and girls requires leadership at the national level."

"National authorities need to take the initiative to build comprehensive strategies while the UN needs to help build capacity and support national authorities and civil societies," he added.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the world now recognised that sexual violence profoundly affected not only the health and safety of women, but the economic and social stability of their nations.

Other speakers identified the former Yugoslavia, Sudan's Darfur region, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Liberia as regions where deliberate sexual violence had occurred on a mass scale.

### Deterrent?



Refugees have often been victims of rape

**“ It's a very effective weapon, because the communities are totally destroyed ”**

Major-General Patrick Cammaert  
Former UN peacekeeper

The former commander of the UN peacekeeping force in eastern Congo, Maj-Gen Patrick Cammaert, told the BBC he personally witnessed its impact.

"It's a very effective weapon, because the communities are totally destroyed," he said.

"You destroy communities. You punish the men, and you punish the women, doing it in front of the men."

In the Democratic Republic of Congo alone, some 40 women are raped every day, our correspondent says.

Sometimes women are even raped by peacekeepers who are supposed to be protecting them, she adds.

The question is whether those in conflict zones who use rape in war will be at all deterred by the new measures, she says.

**BBC**

Monday, 16 June 2008

## DR Congo ex-warlord 'may go free'

**Judges at a key war crimes tribunal have reprimanded those prosecuting Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga and are considering releasing him.**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) judges said that evidence had been withheld from the defence.

Mr Lubanga was held in 2006, accused of recruiting and using child soldiers in DR Congo during its brutal five-year civil war, which ended in 2003.

The case would be the first ever to come to trial before the ICC.

The trial had been scheduled to start on 23 June, but judges postponed it following complaints from the defence that prosecutors had not handed over about 200 documents.

The papers included "a significant body of exculpatory evidence", the judges said in their ruling, which was released on Monday.

"The trial process has been ruptured to such a degree that it is now impossible to piece together the constituent elements of a fair trial," the judgement stated.

They will meet on 24 June to decide whether Mr Lubanga should be freed and the case against him halted.

### **'Killing order'**

Four million people are estimated to have died during the conflict in the DR Congo.

Mr Lubanga led the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) militia in the north-eastern Ituri district, where fighting continued long after the official end of the war.

In a statement released early last year, the prosecution argued that children had been snatched as they walked to school and forced to fight for Mr Lubanga's ethnic Hema militia against their Lendu rivals.

The child soldiers were later instructed "to kill all Lendu including men, women and children", the prosecution statement said, based on testimony from six children.

Mr Lubanga denied any wrongdoing. His lawyers said he was trying to end the conflict and is being punished by the international community for



Mr Lubanga's case would be the first trial at the ICC

refusing to give mining concessions in areas he controlled to foreign firms. The ICC, based in The Hague, was set up in 2002 as the world's first permanent war crimes court.

It was designed to end the need for various ad hoc war crimes courts - including the chambers created to deal with war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and the genocide in Rwanda.