

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



See photos from Saturday's intramural semi-final match between Detention and Police 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 Press and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 20 March 2007

Herman von Hebel Named Acting Registrar

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Herman von Hebel Acting Registrar of the Special Court, following the departure of former Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC.



Mr. von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Adviser and the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

Between 1995 and 2000 he represented the Government of the Netherlands on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court. In 1998 he chaired the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes.

He joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer.

Mr. von Hebel was appointed Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in July 2006.

He will remain as Acting Registrar until a decision has been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the appointment of a new Registrar.

#END

Awoko

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

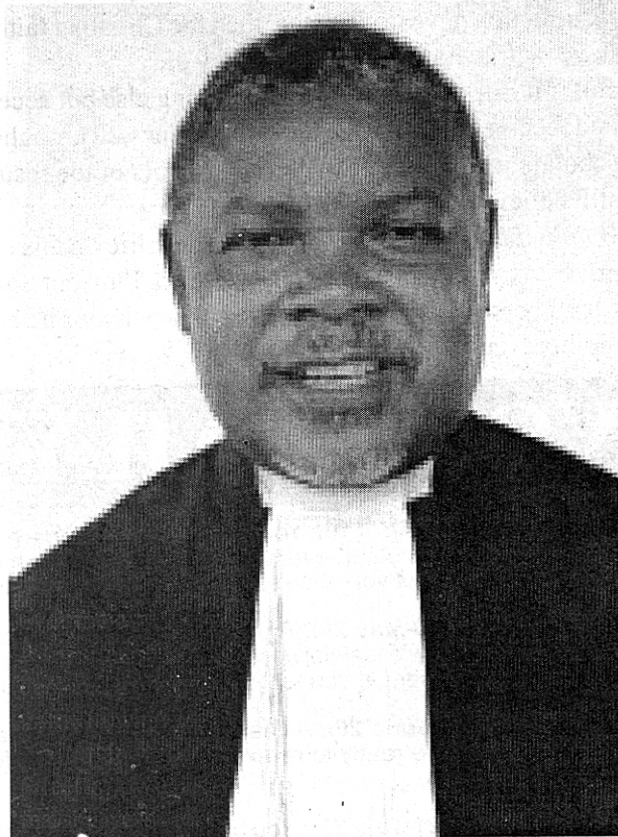
Special Court registrar leaves

After one year in office the registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Lovemore Munlo, has announced that he will be leaving the court.

He said, "after one and a half years at the Special Court, the time has come to move on."

In taking up his post in 2006, Mr Munlo said his vision was to consolidate what the court had already achieved and to move forward in providing efficient and professional support to the Chambers, the Prosecution and Defence. Mr Munlo became interim registrar in October 2005 and in February 2006 he was appointed registrar of the court by the United Nations Secretary-General.

He numbered among his accomplishments as a registrar, a more focused completion strategy which



Lovemore Munlo

met projected milestones, and improved working conditions for local staff.

He also pointed to the conclusion of a host agreement with the government of the Netherlands and the

Memorandum of Understanding with the ICC, to enable the special court to hold the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.

Spectator

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Special Court Registrar bids farewell

The Registrar of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Lovemore Munlo, SC, has announced he will leave the Court after a year and a half as Registrar.

Upon his appointment as Registrar in February 2006 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Munlo said his vision was “to consolidate what the Court has already achieved and to move forward in

providing efficient and professional support to Chambers, Prosecution and Defence”.

Mr. Munlo numbered among his accomplishments as Registrar a more focused completion strategy which meets projects milestones, and improved working conditions for local staff.

He also pointed to the conclusion of a host agreement with the Government of the Netherlands and the Memorandum of Understanding with the ICC, to enable the Special Court to hold the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the Hague

The Spark
Tuesday, 20 March 2007

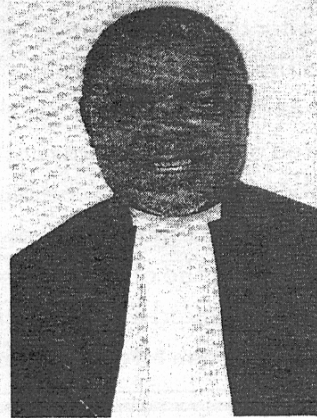
Special Court Registrar Departs

Since the formation of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30th November 1996 to date, the section of the Special Court prosecution has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The present Registrar of Spe-

cial Court for Sierra Leone Lovemore Munlo yesterday in a press release announced his departure from the court. According to him, he became an interim Registrar in October 2005 and was appointed as a Registrar for the Court by the then Secretary General of the United Nations.

Mr. Munlo further said, during his one and half year in such capacity he had been able to put things in line with his visionary purview to consoli-



date what the court has already achieved and to move forward in providing efficient and professional support to chambers, prosecution and defence. He however said among his accomplishments as Registrar he had been able to focus completion strategy which meet projected milestones and improved working conditions for the Special Court local staff.

The Registrar pointed out the relentless efforts he made with

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Special Court Registrar Departs

From FrontPage

the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands and Memorandum of Understanding with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to the conclusion of a host agreement to enable the Special Court for Sierra Leone to hold the trial of former Liberian President Charles Tay-

lor in the Hague.

The departure of Mr. Lovemore Munlo has been recorded to be the third prosecutor not to witness the final completion of the court after De Silva and David Crane who also departed from the Special Court a few years ago.

Salone Times
Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Why Special Court Registrar Abandoned Task

Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) Registrar, Lovemore Munlo has resigned from the Special Court as we went to press.

His resignation comes in the wake of the demise of a prime Special Court indictee Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, who died in a hospital in Dakar,

Senegal under what the late man's children described as "controversial and suspicious."

Efforts to contact authori-

tative sources at the Special Court, New England in Freetown as to the reasons for Mr. Munlo's resignation at such a "crucial time" proved futile as we went to press.

See Page 2



Special Court Registrar Resigns

However, SALONE TIMES gathered that Mr. Munlo's exit from the Special Court could not be unconnected to recent happenings at the court involving the alleged "untimely" death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

SALONE TIMES in subsequent issues would publish reasons as explained by members of the public as to how and why Mr. Munlo left the Special Court.

In the meantime, below is a press release issued by the Special Court on the departure of Mr. Munlo.

Lovemore Munlo, SC has announced he will leave the Special Court after a year and a half as Registrar.

"After one and a half years at the Special Court, the time has come to move on", Mr. Munlo told staff members last week.

Mr. Munlo became interim Registrar in October 2005. In February 2006, he was appointed Registrar of the Special Court by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In taking up his post in 2006, Mr. Munlo said his vision was "to consolidate what the Court has already achieved and to move for-

ward in providing efficient and professional support to Chambers. Prosecution and Defence."

Mr. Munlo numbered among his accomplishments as Registrar a more focused completion strategy which meets projected milestones, and improved working conditions for local staff.

He also pointed to the conclusion of a host agreement with the agreement with the government of the Netherlands and the Memorandum of Understanding with the ICC, to enable the Special Court to hold the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.

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 30th 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 (IHL).

Concord Times
Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Special Court Registrar quits

By Abdul Karim Koroma

The United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone yesterday issued a press statement disclosing that Registrar Lovemore Munlo has left without reasons after serving a year and half.

"After a year and half at the Special Court, the time has come for me to leave," the release quoted the outgoing Special Court Registrar.

Munlo became the interim Registrar of the Court in October 2005 and was later con-

firmed as Registrar by the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan in February 2006.

When taking up his post in 2006, Mr. Munlo was quoted in the release saying his vi-

Cont. page 4



*Lovemore
Munlo, former
Special Court
Registrar*

Special Court Registrar quits

From page 1

sion was: "To consolidate what the Court has already achieved and to move forward in providing efficient and professional support to Chambers, the Prosecutor and the Defence."

Lovemore Munlo announced his departure from the Special

Court for Sierra Leone exactly 27 days after the death of war crime indictee and erstwhile Civil Defence Forces (CDF) Coordinator, late Sam Hinga Norman.

Meanwhile, confirmed sources indicated that Herman VonHbel has been appointed Acting Registrar of the Court.

New Citizen

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Opinion

Frank Talk: The Hinga Norman Story

By I.B. Kargbo

Sam Hinga Norman, a Sierra Leonean who even in his younger years ignited controversy when the young Lieutenant and Aid De Camp to the Governor General of the newly independent Sierra Leone, became part of a group that was involved in the dismantling of an otherwise well-conducted election in 1967, continued to be at the centre of activities, both political and social, until he assumed the very important position of Deputy Minister of Defence after the Kabbah administration came to power.

One of the fundamental reasons why Sam Hinga Norman remained topical in political discussions was the fact that he associated himself with a military movement organised by traditional hunters known as Kamajors for the purposes of routing out the rebels of the RUF.

He exhibited considerable bravado and provided fearless leadership to villagers who thought that it was their business to provide a parallel military structure for the purposes of liberating the fatherland from the claws of rebels.

Sam Hinga Norman therefore became a household name and a strong and well-known politician within the SLPP camp.

The reputation of Sam Hinga Norman rose to higher heights when after the overthrow of the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Sam Hinga Norman took it upon himself to mobilise young traditional fighters for the purposes of countering the military administration of the AFRC.

It has been argued in some quarters that if Sam Hinga Norman did not provide leadership for the resistance against the AFRC and the RUF, the international community would not have known that the Sierra Leonean populace was vehemently against the rulership of the AFRC.

Even though it is a known fact that Sierra Leoneans like Dr. James Jonah and even the late Mrs Patricia Kabbah and President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah undertook effective diplomatic programmes aimed at sensitizing the international community about the need to reinstate the democratically elected government, if Sam Hinga Norman did not provide the domestic resistance, it was just possible that there could have been no way by which the AFRC could have been removed from office.

To the majority members of the SLPP who felt cheated when their young government was chased out of office rather prematurely, the military campaign promoted by Sam Hinga Norman was an inspiration that kept most of them alive until the day of the intervention when the AFRC was removed from power.

To the SLPP supporters and indeed some other Sierra Leoneans, Sam Hinga Norman appeared to be a hero even though his methods of fighting had not been investigated for the purposes of establishing whether intact such methods were consistent with internationally accepted standards or not.

Many Sierra Leoneans, up to this moment, have very little or no knowledge as to how the Special Court came about, except that it is now being discussed that it was the Sierra Leone government of which Sam Hinga Norman was a party that requested the setting up of the Special Court in Freetown to prosecute those who carried the greatest responsibility for the atrocities of the eleven-year war.

The investigators entered Sierra Leone without the notice of many people and when they investigated, the investigation was not restricted to the RUF alone as the investigators were instructed that all factions to the war should be investigated.

And according to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, to this writer about the thoroughness with which the investigations were carried out, even President Kabbah himself and his entire Cabinet were scrupulously investigated.

Even members of the media, all holders of senior positions in the Police and the Army and Paramount Chiefs were all investigated very thoroughly.

But President Kabbah himself, totally unaware of who would be implicated in this matter by the Special Court, by sheer coincidence, invited Sam Hinga Norman to his office in early 2002 to find out whether any "of our people could have been involved in unacceptable practices in prosecuting the war."

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah later explained that he got all the assurances of Sam Hinga Norman that none of the CDF people could have been involved in crimes against humanity.

But President Kabbah must also have very good reason to suggest that even before the completion of the investigation that his Deputy Minister of Defence should proceed to Abuja as Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Nigeria so that Joe Blell would come to Sierra Leone to replace Sam Hinga Norman and Deputy Defence Minister.

This suggestion by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah created uproar which resulted in the Kamajors and other SLPP leaders protesting, as many people held the view that Sam Hinga Norman, the Saviour, could not be humiliated by being removed from a ministerial position to an ambassadorial position.

Sam Hinga Norman himself and President Kabbah may have heard some arguments as to how the state was administered after Sam Hinga Norman wrote to President Kabbah in Conakry where he was in exile, that after the intervention that removed the AFRC from, could President Kabbah remain in Conakry for an other two years so that Sam Hinga Norman, Maxwell Kobe and others could properly restructure the country and rid the country of RUF so that President Kabbah could come back to a safe country.

This suggestion of "wait and come to safety" was totally ignored by President Kabbah who decided to return home early instead of waiting for two years for Sam Hinga Norman and Maxwell Kobe to clean up the country.

Sam Hinga Norman continued to remain as Deputy Minister of Defence and the next confrontation between himself and President Kabbah was recorded when President Kabbah insisted that his Deputy Minister of Defence must dismantle the CDF intelligence that he had put in place to be replaced by a more organised and more structured and intelligence unit that became the Office of National Security (ONS).

This misunderstanding between President Kabbah and Chief Sam Hinga Norman remained unannounced, but on one occasion, President Kabbah gave Sam Hinga Norman a time within which to dismantle his CDF intelligence system.

The relationship between President Kabbah and the late Sam Hinga Norman was at best a working relationship and on one occasion, President Kabbah actually did say that Sam Hinga Norman was a brave man and a patriot who must learn to operate within the ambit of civilian and political administration.

A research carried out by this writer discovered no serious animosity between President Kabbah and Sam Hinga Norman even though there was the suspicion that President Kabbah was anxious to ensure that no politician could continue to have men in arms under his control, taking into consideration the fact that there was great need for the factors that led to the war to be distanced from the government itself.

Sam Hinga Norman continued to remain a hero among members of the populace as the one Sierra Leonean, the ex-military man, who had the gumption to take up arms and challenge a military government and fighting rebels.

When peace finally did come to Sierra Leone, he was listed as one of the national heroes.

The albatross that is a Special Court was to create tension within the ruling party itself not only because there are some people in Sierra Leone who prefer the more reconciliatory Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but also because in the process of arresting possible culprits, the high profiled and SLPP strongman, Sam Hinga Norman, was arrested.

The government itself knew that the British-born Keith Biddle, who was then the Inspector General of Police and a few other Sierra Leonean Police Officers had actually walked the distance to Sam Hinga Norman's office at the Ministry of Internal Affairs to arrest him even though he had been promoted to the rank of Internal Affairs Minister and therefore, the Minister in charge of the police.

The arrest of Sam Hinga Norman left many Sierra Leoneans dumbfounded, as editorials in the newspapers remained blind for a long time for want of fact and justification for the arrest of Sam Hinga Norman.

To many SLPP supporters, the arrest of Sam Hinga Norman was a deliberate attempt by the Special Court to equate their hero to the killer of a Foday Sankoh of the RUF, who himself had been indicted by the Special Court.

Sam Hinga Norman therefore became a hot potato, the government of which he was a part, did not make any statement as to why he was arrested nor could the same government which had benefited from the bravery of Sam Hinga Norman make any statement of vilification on Sam Hinga Norman.

Sam Hinga Norman himself always felt betrayed whist he was in the custody of the Special Court as he lamented to this writer, "my own people have not visited me, I have been abandoned, but I assure you that if anything happens to me here, my boys would come out and take on Kabbah's government".

At a time Sam Hinga Norman's suspicions was that he was going to be imprisoned and that if he was imprisoned, such an act would not go down well with many Sierra Leoneans who saw him as a hero.

He could not be convinced that the people of Sierra Leone would not take up arms again for any purpose as he shook his fist and turned to Issa Sesay, equally incarcerated leader of the RUF, and said, "Issa and myself have become close friends. Both of us have been locked up in this place unfairly. If it was not for Issa Sesay, the RUF would not have disbanded. Equally true, if I did not mobilise my young fighters, the SLPP would not have come back to power. But here we are helpless, pitiless and abandoned."

Sam Hinga Norman turned to the AFRC indictees, Santigie 55, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and said, "these people are mere Sergeants. How can you pick out mere Sergeants in an army where there are Colonels and Brigadiers who were part of the AFRC and conclude that these mere Sergeants, carry the highest responsibility in the war."

Sam Hinga Norman complained that he was not feeling well and fumed that he had been betrayed by people whom he trusted and he actually did say that one man he would encounter once he was released was Daramy Rogers adding, "that man betrayed me, and I have been told about his intrigues".

The incarceration of Sam Hinga Norman, it must be stated to some extent, created a division within the ruling SLPP as many of the SLPP people believed that without Sam Hinga Norman's bravery, the SLPP would not have returned to power.

The news that Sam Hinga Norman and Issa Sesay would be taken to Dakar in Senegal for medical treatment was first seen by many observers as a huge dose of magnanimity by the administration of the Special Court.

But when news filtered into Sierra Leone that the former Government Minister and former Leader of the CDF Kamajors had passed away in Senegal, there was a lot of tongue-wagging as the Special Court was put under intense pressure by members of the public, who wanted to know how Sam Hinga Norman died.

Even in death, Sam Hinga Norman continues to be a political hot potato as some politicians have interpreted his death as an act of neglect on the part of present rulers, who had seen Sam Hinga Norman, during his life time, as a strong party man who was prepared to shed his blood for the SLPP.

But the Special Court's position continues to create more controversy because the Special Courts holds the view that even though Sam Hinga Norman after his death no longer qualified as a Special Court indictee, the prosecutors at the Special Court have not regretted that they indicted him.

Whether one likes it or not, the death of Sam Hinga Norman is a serious political dilemma, especially for the SLPP. But what should not be seen to be the case of the death of Sam Hinga Norman is to be dishonestly exploited by politicians, for after all, Sam Hinga Norman served his country to the best of his ability and now he can only be remembered as a man who lived like any ordinary person, achieving success on the one hand and making mistakes on the other hand.

Sam Hinga Norman cannot die without comments about the circumstance surrounding his death.

Salone Times
Tuesday, 20 March 2007
Opinion

News & views About The Country In The Diaspora

THE SPECIAL COURT PUSH FOR AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE FOR THE PROSECUTOR.

Fact or Fiction?

By Ishamel Taylor-Kamara, USA.

I consider myself to be a pretty charitable person; so I can forgive anyone (except a lawyer, I suppose) who attempts to read a 307 page trial transcript and ultimately "cries uncle". However, as with most things in life, even generosity must have some limitations. This brings me to the analysis from Messrs. Abdul Karim Bangura and Sami Gandy-Gorgla of the Sierra Leone Working Group ("The Special Court's Push for an Unfair Advantage for the Prosecutor", February 14, 2007).

At the beginning of their article, Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla indicate that they will lay out "examples of [their] assertion [that] the Prosecutor has been given an unfair advantage to win guilty verdicts and convictions in the case against Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa", the CDF indictees on trial in the Special Court. Unfortunately, however, that is where the distinction between fact and fiction ends in their article. You see, Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla really haven't provided any credible examples of their assertion. What they have done instead is to pull out and distort excerpts from the first 35 or so pages of the 307 page transcript of the two-day session of the closing arguments in the CDF case, held on November 28-29, 2006. To prove my point, I will contrast each of those examples with what the transcript actually says, except the first example, which although mentioned in the transcript, involves a procedural issue.

Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla First Example: First, Rule 86 of the Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence stipulates that after the presentation of all evidence, the Prosecutor shall and the defense may present a closing argument. In essence, while the Prosecutor is mandated to offer a closing argument, the Defense can do so if, and only if, it chooses to do so. One must wonder why both the Prosecutor and the Defense were not given the same mandate, as it is not uncommon for a Prosecutor to forgo a closing argument, if s/he believes that doing so would

serve no worthwhile purpose. This seems to be the case for the Prosecutor in the case against the Civil Defense Force defendants, as the Prosecutor has not been able to prove his case.

consider the absence of a jury that a Prosecutor can sway with highly-charged emotional appeals. Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla Second Example: Second, because the Chamber was not advised as to the methodology of the third accused, it was assumed by the Bench that his methodology would follow the sequence, thematic or otherwise, as indicated in the final trial briefs of all

Presiding Judge observed thus: "Up to the time of coming to court, this Chamber had not been advised as to the methodology of the third accused. I assume, therefore, that their methodology will follow the sequence, thematic or otherwise, as indicated in their final trial brief". (emphasis mine) (transcript, pages 4-6). I will be charitable and allow that Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla may have misunderstood the usage of the word "their" as identified above, but leave that to the reader to ponder.



INTERVENTION: Police officers quelling the strike action taken by SALPOST workers yesterday along Gloucester Street in Freetown.

Trial Transcript: I am really not sure what the complaint is here, but the authors are clearly fishing for something, anything to stick. First, it is a moot because the Defense (for each of the three defendant) availed itself of its opportunity to offer closing arguments. Second, if, as Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla claim, "the Prosecutor has not been able to prove his case", would not the mandatory requirement of the Prosecution to present closing argument be a disadvantage; reason tells us that it would because he would merely be repeating, if not re-enforcing, arguments deemed by Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla to be unconvincing; especially when you

three men. Is this not the same Court that in the beginning of the trial rejected the plea by the accused that they be given a consolidated and proper indictment? Trial Transcript: Once again, the authors are on a fishing expedition. According to the trial transcript "[f]ollowing inquiries as to what methodology or methodologies the parties will be adopting in presenting their closing arguments", Chambers was so advised by the Prosecution and each Defense Team, except counsel for the third accused Allieu Kondewa. Thus as part of customary housekeeping in trial practice, before proceeding with the closing arguments, the

Bangura and Sandy-Gorgla Third Example: Third, the Prosecution team was granted leave to file two annexes to the final trial brief some six days after the final trial brief by the Defense team contrary to Rule 86 (B) which states that "A party shall file a trial brief with the Trial Chamber not later than 5 days prior to the day set for the presentation of the party's closing argument." Is this not a case of the Prosecutor breaking his own rule? It is quite obvious that the Prosecutor who has overwhelming financial, human and technical resources in his possession could not put his case together on time. Again, the reason for this is that he has no case; thus, he must continue to scramble past his own deadline to make up a case.

TO BE CONTINUE

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Monday, 19 March 2007

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200703191788.html>

Taylor Under Cell Surveillance

But Lawyers Describe Method as Uncivilized

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) which is prosecuting those who bear the greatest responsibilities for war crimes and crimes against humanity for the decade long Sierra Leonean civil war, and which has indicted and transferred former Liberian President.

Mr. Charles Taylor who was moved to the international criminal court in the Hague, has again come under spotlight with lawyers of the accused alleging that their client is under intense camera surveillance, an act that they describe as "unheard of and uncivilized."

Whether the claims are real or mere figments of the imagination, the lawyers are however vowing that they will not form a defense of the accused during his impending trial unless the Special Court makes the necessary amends of the new phenomenon in the living environment of Mr. Taylor.

Lawyers for former Liberian president Charles Taylor on Friday said they had suspended legal visits to the war crimes suspect in protest against a camera being installed in his cell.

Karim Khan, one of Taylor's British lawyers, told a press conference in Freetown that the move was "unheard of in most civilized systems," adding: "Our sanctity of legal visit has been violated."

Mr. Taylor is currently being held in The Hague, where his trial for 11 counts of crimes against humanity, war crimes and human rights violations will be heard by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) from June 4.

The hearing was moved to the International criminal court from the SCSL's base in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, for security reasons. Mr. Khan said that following a complaint, the SCSL president had asked the ICC to remove the camera from Taylor's cell, but the request was denied.

"It is a cause of lament that it seems that the special court is not sovereign in relation to its own accused," the lawyer said.

He added: "It seemed as if the Special Court for Sierra Leone is going out with a begging bowl to foreign international legal institutions, not as an equal but separate judicial institution." SCSL officials in Freetown refused to comment on Khan's remarks.

Mr. Taylor, 58, is seen as a key player in the series of civil wars in Liberia and neighboring Sierra Leone between 1989 and 2003, which left about 400,000 people dead. He has maintained he is innocent of the charges.

Cocorioko website

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/Falsequalificationsatspecialcourt.html>

The views expressed in this article are entirely the writer's. They do not represent COCORIOKO's views. Also, claims made in the article cannot be ascertained by this paper. The article is being published because, as an independent and democratic paper, we give everyone the opportunity to provide their views. COCORIOKO

Fake qualifications flood Special Court for Sierra Leone

Dear Cocorioko:

I am writing with dismay to inform the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the whole world that their Human Resource Department is totally defective in executing its duties. This is due to the number of people who are recruited with fake qualifications, both international and local staff. They recruit on the basis of flamboyant CVs without checking with alleged institutions to check the veracity of the acclaimed qualifications.

Between 2002 and 2005, five international staff who served the court went there with fake qualifications-something they never had. Interestingly, the Administrative department of the court is so lazy or incompetent that they are only interested in collecting their pay packages at the end of the month. They never check with even Fourah Bay College right under their noses to ascertain the genuineness of academic qualifications. Seen that the internationals had their way, our local brothers and sisters also tested the waters, and unfortunately succeeded.

As I write this piece, there are few local employees who were employed on the basis of fake qualifications and flamboyant CVs. Some claimed to have Honours Law degrees, when they could not even pass their final exams (please note that those who fail final year exams are not awarded ATPs and as such leave the college without any qualifications-empty handed), and are today working as National Professional Officers (NPOs), depriving those who have sweated to acquire genuine qualifications. Others claim to have degrees in International Relations when Fourah Bay College does not offer a degree in International Relations. International Relations is only done as a sole subject for Final General Students and Final Honours One students in the Department of Political Science. Infact, it is not even International Relations but "Introduction to International Relations". Therefore, students in political science department are only introduced to International Relations once in the four academic years they spend in FBC, that is in Final Year for those who graduate with a General Degree and Final Honours One for those who graduate with Honours degree in Political Science. So for any one to say he has a degree in International Relations from Fourah Bay College is outright cheating.

I am therefore calling on the administrators of the Special Court to call for the qualifications of all their employees. It costs nothing to go to University Secretariat at Tower Hill to cross-check with relevant authorities the veracity of the local qualifications.

In the meantime, it is time for the bogus graduates to know that they are doing injustice to the academic system and a great disservice to our country by claiming to have something they never got. Qualifications are not earned cheaply...they have to be fought for. Their best bet is to leave the premises of the court rather than allowed to be disgracefully traced out.

Let me reiterate that the court officials are expected to treat this thing with the seriousness it deserves; otherwise, I shall have to call names including those of senior officials at the court who are conniving with criminals to fleece the academic system.

Kindest regards,

Elongimafor Kpanabum

Serious Fraud Office
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 19 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Ban Ki-Moon Recommends One-Year Extension of UN Peacekeeping Mission

New York, Mar 17, 2007 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX)
 --Despite numerous successes made in Liberia to bolster peace and further economic progress, the impoverished West African country still faces many obstacles including poverty, high unemployment and incapacitated public services, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in a new report, calling on the Security Council to extend the UN peacekeeping mission there for another year.

International Clips on West Africa

'Diamond' is garden-variety: But this story of Sierra Leone's civil war tries

Mar. 19--"Blood Diamond" (Warner Bros.) Grade: C+: The lives of two very different men become connected as they search for a rare gem. The film is set against the civil war in Sierra Leone during the 1990s. Leonardo DiCaprio stars. "Blood Diamond" is a standard adventure film that tries, somewhat successfully, to be a pointed political expose of the dirty side of the diamond business.

Local Media – Newspaper

UN Extends Mission in Liberia

(The News, New Democrat, The Informer, Daily Observer, The Analyst and The Diary)

- In his report to the Security Council of the United Nations, Secretary- General, Ban Ki-Moon recommended the extension by one year, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and added that despite numerous successes to bolster peace and economic progress in Liberia, the Country was still facing many obstacles including poverty, high unemployment and incapacitated public services.

Government Pays Debt Arrears to Vendors

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

- At an elaborate ceremony on Friday, 16 March 2007, the Government commenced the payment of domestic debts to its local creditors and vendors, dating back to the 1980s totaling over US\$700 million. Speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the Cabinet, Internal Affairs Minister Ambullai Johnson encouraged representatives of 14 business entities who symbolically received checks for monies owed them to reinvest the monies they received in the economy.

Liberia and Major Partner Agree on Use of Equipment

(The Analyst)

- A statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said a memorandum on the use of critically needed road maintenance equipment is expected to be signed between government and the U.S. Embassy today.

- The release said all the equipment would be in place for the Liberia government to fully begin road repairs at the start of the next dry season and said US government investment in the road maintenance equipment was evidence of that government's continuous commitment to the Liberian people.

President Wants Bankers Make Disclosure of Liberia's Stolen Monies

(The Informer, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- Speaking in Brussels last Thursday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called on financial institutions which have kept monies allegedly stolen from the Country, to make full disclosure on the funds.
- She urged that financial institutions should refrain from waiting for pressure often exerted on them by Governments and stressed the need for the institutions to disclose who the depositors are.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

UN Secretary General calls for Extension of UNMIL's Mandate

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberia-United States to Sign Memorandum for Use of Equipment

Deputy Police Commandant Wants support for Training Academy

- Speaking at the graduation of over 150 police officers at the weekend, the Deputy Commandant at the National Police Training Academy, James Hallowangar called on government to provide more support for the academy to make it more functional and effective.
- Mr. Hallowangar said there was a need for urgent attention to be given the academy to make it fully equipped to international standards.
- He then cautioned police officers against harassing and intimidating civilians but rather provide maximum security protection for them.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

BBC

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6468495.stm

Saddam Aide is Executed in Iraq

Ramadan was originally jailed for life over the Dujail killings

Former Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan has been executed, an Iraqi government official says. "Ramadan was hanged at 0305 (0005 GMT) today," an official from the Iraqi prime minister's office was quoted as telling the AFP news agency.

One of Saddam Hussein's co-defendants, he was sentenced to life for his role in killing Shias in the 1980s, but his punishment was increased at an appeal.

The execution was described as "a political assassination" by his son.

Ahmad Ramadan was speaking to al-Jazeera TV from the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

He said his father would be buried in or near the Iraqi city of Tikrit, near Saddam's burial place.

Ramadan, who was thought to be in his late 60s, was the third senior former official to be hanged since Saddam Hussein was executed on 30 December.

Two of Saddam Hussein's former aides, Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and Awad Ahmed Bandar, were put to death on 15 January.

'Smooth' execution

The official said care was taken to avoid a repeat of Tikriti's bungled execution, which led to the condemned man being decapitated during the hanging.

"The execution was smooth with no violation," he said.

Ramadan profile

He said officials from the prime minister's office and the justice ministry were present at the hanging, along with a doctor, a prosecutor, a judge and a lawyer representing Ramadan.

Ramadan had said he had no fear of death and that he would "die bravely", according to his lawyer.

He was held in US custody until shortly before the execution, when he was handed over to Iraqi authorities.

The sentence was carried out at a prison on a military base in northern Baghdad, an official said.

Ramadan had maintained his innocence throughout the legal proceedings.

He was convicted along with the deposed Iraqi leader and others over their part in the killing of 148 Shias in the town of Dujail in the 1980s, in apparent revenge following a failed assassination attempt against Saddam Hussein.

Ramadan, who was born in the late 1930s, lost his final appeal last week and under Iraqi law had to go to the gallows within 30 days.

He was captured by Kurdish fighters in the northern city of Mosul in August 2003 and handed over to US forces.

Special Court Supplement

Semi-Final Match: Police 2 – 0 Detention (Penalties, after a 0-0 draw)
Saturday, 17 March 2007 at the National Stadium Practice Field





