

**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:**

Tuesday, 21 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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# Daramy Rogers named as District Coordinator

By Betty Milton

The sixth witness for Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, Kenneth Koker yesterday told the Special Court that Daramy Rogers was the District Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

Mr. Koker said Daramy Rogers' replacement came about after they had raised concerns about the non supply of their foodstuff as a member of the War Council at Base Zero. He said Mr. Rogers was assigned mainly with the ECOMOG troops and that they were responsible for the distribution of food brought for them.

Mr. Koker stressed that the Kamajors went for about two months without food and they were not pleased about it but later realised that the government had sent a total of 300 bags of rice, which they did not receive. An investigation team, the witness said, included former Vice President Dr. Joe Demby and Mr. Charles Margai who was the then Minister of Internal Affairs and some others whose name he could not recall, but that after the investigation Daramy Rogers was replaced by Kosseh Hindowa.

The witness admitted that he was a member of the Kamajors and was even a

Task Force Commander.

He recalled that, some time after the coup in 1997, they went to Kpar Village where they stayed until they heard that ECOMOG was coming towards Bo Town. He said they stayed in the town for about four days until they were attacked by some soldiers dressed in Kamajors' attires.

Later they heard that the Kamajors had gone to Base Zero, this made them to send some Kamajors there to know what the situation was. The men, he said, returned after three weeks with single barrel guns and medicines which were handed over to the Chiefdom Authorities who in turn gave the medicines to those who were

*Contd. Page 2*

## Daramy Rogers named as District Coordinator

*From Front Page*

The former Task Force Commander explained that after three days they returned to Bo Town when the ECOMOG forces took over the town. At the Police Barracks, Mr. Koker narrated, they were

instructed by Colonel Buhari Musu that they [Kamajors] should start taking orders from them [ECOMOG].

Kenneth Koker further said they were informed that the rebels and soldiers had invaded Freetown and they [ECOMOG] had run short of manpower so they needed the services of the

Kamajors who were immediately airlifted from Bo to Cockerill Headquarters in Freetown where they were supplied with guns.

Some, he said, were deployed at Up-gun Roundabout and some at Ferry Junction and that they were all deployed with the ECOMOG troops.

## 6<sup>th</sup> defence witness testifies at Special Court

The sixth defence witness in the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina

Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa, started his testimony yesterday at the Special Court for Sierra

Leone. The witness who identified himself as Kenneth  
*Contd: page 2*

## 6<sup>th</sup> defence witness testifies at Special Court

### *From front page*

Coker, a native born of Bo, affirmed that he was initiated into the Kamajor movement at Messima section in the Bo district, by one Mammy Munda.

Testifying, the witness stated that he was at Tongay village when he heard that rebels had overthrown the government of Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

On hearing that, the witness testified that he straight away traveled to his residence in Bo, to collect some clothes, and went back to Tongay where there was a safe haven.

Few months later, the witness explained that he heard that Kamajors were operating at Base Zero, and that they are in need of able bodied men to go and help them with the transfer of logistics. According to him, he and one of his colleagues voluntarily left for Base Zero, where they were given three single barrel guns, cartridges and medicine to convey to Tongay.

Whilst at Base Zero, the witness recalled that he was made to understand that the arms and ammunition and other logical supplies were coming directly from the ECOMOG troops based in Liberia.

Commenting on the war proper, the witness further stated that while at Tongay, he was told that ECOMOG forces in collaboration with the Kamajors stationed around the Sierra Leone and

Liberia border were planning to attack and recapture Bo town from the hands of the junta forces.

On hearing this, the witness informed the Court that he immediately left for Bo, alongside his men.

"On reaching Bo, we deployed behind the famous reservation forest", the witness said, adding that whilst in the forest, they saw a group of armed men in Kamajor outfits.

Thinking that they were all co-members of the Kamajor movement, the witness said that they got up from their ambush and attempted to approach the men who ended up opening firing on them and succeeded in killing some of his men. The witness also explained how he narrowly escaped death.

He also revealed that the rebels perpetuated a lot of atrocities on the civilian population.

According to him, the rebels took pleasure in burning down houses perceived to be owned by Kamajor collaborators. The witness also explained how they were working in close collaboration with ECOMOG.

He further explained that messages were sent from Freetown, demanding that Kamajor fighters be conveyed to Freetown to reinforce ECOMOG for the eventual military intervention which saw the restoration of democracy in the country.

# British General to testify at Special Court today

General David Richards of the British Army will testify at the Special Court today.

It would be recalled that British born and former High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold had already testified before the Court. Joe Demby and others too have done same. It is now the turn of General Richards. The president too is expected to make his appearance soon.

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PLAIN TALK

By Mohamed Sessay

One thing that is certain is that Sierra Leone Must, at all cost, move forward. As a nation, there is need for us to match civilisation in other developed or developing countries. With the dawn of political pluralism and the establishment of other vital democratic institutions, the torch has been lighted and when once the people have seen the light, it will continue to burn and direct them towards just what the right path is for the attainment of socio-economic and mental emancipation in this country.

The revelations at the ongoing CDF trial at the Special Court, by the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold, and the CDF First Accused and Indictee Chief Sam Hinga Norman, about Kabbah's role/position and financial support towards the Kamajohs while in exile in the Guinean capital of Conakry, speak volumes about the untold story not just about the circumstances that led to the formation of the CDF and their source of funding, but actually bring to light, a lot of issues which until now, have been a mystery to the people of this country with regards why they suffered so much at the hands of their then perceived liberators.

A lot of comments, criticisms and queries have been advanced by the press and the public at large, on the rationale behind the setting up of a Special Court in Sierra Leone to try, "all those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and other breaches of international humanitarian laws," in the course of the decade long turmoil in Sierra Leone. Some argue that with the war having been officially declared ended after Lome, there was no need for the setting up of the court as it would merely open up delectable cans of worms that would painfully remind the people of their undeserved sufferings while others believe that, it is an inevitable stance by both the government of Sierra Leone and the international community, if impunity for unwarranted cruelty perpetrated by the warring factions in the course of the war should take a permanent back stage in the country's history. Whichever way, the stakes are indeed high as it now appears because from the testimony and evidence so far tendered by the indictees particularly Mr Norman of the CDF, and Prosecution Witness Peter Penfold, there are strong

# Kabbah Must Testify

indications that a good number of big fishes would eventually be trapped in the net even if not now, because of the immunity they enjoy by virtue of their social/political status.

Some of us are not legally minded but could however comprehend simple legal doctrines. Those indicted and are currently being tried for war crimes are those deemed to have been responsible for the pains, trials and tribulations that Sierra Leoneans went through in the course of the war and to the best of my knowledge and comprehension, there is no section in the statement that guarantees immunity from prosecution by anyone as a result of his or her status including even the President of Sierra Leone. I am sure the international community that disbursed the funds for the setting up of the Special Court, would not have made their tax payers money available for the purpose of setting up a Special Court in Sierra Leone, had there been a statement, phrase or clause in the document that ratified the setting up of the Court that seem to protect a certain class of people either because of their social or financial status from either being indicted or presenting themselves as witnesses to ensure that justice is dispensed without fear or favour. This is why, the argument/defense advanced by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederick Carew, that the President for whatever reason, could not avail himself for testimony even after being subpoenaed by an internationally recognised court to say the least, is preposterous and smacks an attempt by the Judiciary to undermine the impartial dispensation of justice.

Immediately after the restoration of democracy in 1998, the Kamajohs/CDF, did complain about negligence of their welfare by the government. A Committee headed by the late Deputy Speaker of Parliament, A.O Bangura, charged with the responsibility of catering for the welfare of the CDF and a trust fund to which donations was made for food supply to particularly the Kamajohs in the various areas of deployment was set up to which Kabbah himself donated Twenty Million Leones. Whatever happened to that money still remains a mystery as the Kamajohs at a point, were even going to protest

when they learnt that the monthly rice supply and allowance that was due them in their various locations, was being diverted to private pockets. The then Deputy Speaker of Parliament it was learned, did call up Mr Norman, then as Deputy Defence Minister to confirm what happened to the President's Le 20M donation to the trust fund, although information on the outcome of their discussion on the issue was at the time not made available to this press. So the bottom line is that Kabbah was quite aware of everything pertaining to the setting up of the CDF, their support in terms of logistics and supplies and should as a matter of principle for the impartial dispensation of justice, avail himself to the Special Court to clarify these issues. Otherwise I sense doom. How about that Frederick Carew?

*Immediately after the restoration of democracy in 1998, the Kamajohs/CDF, did complain about negligence of their welfare by the government. A Committee headed by the late Deputy Speaker of Parliament, A.O Bangura, charged with the responsibility of catering for the welfare of the CDF and a trust fund to which donations was made for food supply to particularly the Kamajohs in the various areas of deployment was set up to which Kabbah himself donated Twenty Million Leones.*

# Leave Sierra Leone Out Of This, Please!

Why would the United States of America want to punish Sierra Leone for as they say, Charles Taylor not being brought to trial before the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

A US Congressman was yesterday quoted by the *Concord Times* as saying that the international community might show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone should former President Charles Taylor continue to evade justice.

We want to believe that Ed Royce, the US Congressman to whom the statement was credited is not being honest to himself, God and his conscience because it is clear that Taylor's absence from the Special Court is not the responsibility of Sierra Leone or Liberia.

The USA is notorious for its double standard and bad foreign policy, which had today turned the world upside down and a very unsafe place to live.

Taylor's going into exile in Nigeria was with the backing of the international community, the USA included, with President Olusegun Obasanjo being used as a pawn in the game of chess.

When David Crane, the then Special Court prosecutor attempted to get Charles Taylor arrested in Ghana two years ago, but failed, the international community did not condemn the action of the West Africa leaders, especially President John Kuffur who shielded him from arrest.

Before then, when the LURD rebels came knocking on Taylor front door in the heat of the rebel war, was it not the Americans, who told them not to pursue their action to get him citing the heavy civilian causality as reason?

Where was the USA when Taylor was been taken into exile in Nigeria after an elaborate farewell ceremony in Liberia?

They are not now piling pressure on Nigeria to hand him over to the Special Court, instead they are using the long route by wanting to punish Liberia and Sierra Leone knowing fully well their hands are tied behind their back

Had the USA or the international community at any time pressure or threatened Nigerian with sanction for falling to hand over Taylor to the Special Court? NO!

Obasanjo had insisted he was not going to hand over Taylor to the court, but to the elected Liberian government instead, if such a request is made.

The Liberians cannot do it alone. It has to be done with pressure and threat from the international community.

Leave Sierra Leone completely out of this please.

## THE POLITICS OF CHARLES Taylor's Extradition

The politics of Charles Taylor's extradition continue to gather steam on and off. What the United States Congress has been failing to realise is that one of the basic tenets of good governance is to confer with Africans the right to manage vital mechanisms for conflict resolution and conflict prevention.

The sticking point in the efforts to ensure that the ex-President of Liberia Charles Taylor, who is currently in exile in Nigeria, as guest of Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, is the legal ramifications on mandating the host country to hand-over the fugitive to the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone. The international community including the United States and the UN system know where the hitch lies in the campaign to surrender Taylor and so is Nigeria, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

What is intriguing is, why is it that the US is fully abreast with where lies the problems, yet they are failing to hit the nail on the head and having the tendency to cast blames on innocent people to bear the consequences for Charles Taylor's continued insistence on not complying with the request of the Special Court? As a proof, a local newspaper carried the caption "US Congress vows not to rebuild Salone, Liberia" over Taylor's extradition. A US congressman Ed Royce in his statement during the International Relations Subcommittee on Africa and International Human Rights Hearing has declared that the International Community might show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone should ex-President Charles Taylor continue to evade justice.

As far as the necessity to get Charles Taylor to the Special Court remains a priority of the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone and Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia to exonerate the governments of both countries from complicity and cover up in the extradition requests, there are some underlying political factors that need to be set straight.

The external factor is the requirements of good governance imposed by the UN system that is reflected in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPA) that African governments should play decisive roles as catalysts of regional peace.

This is why at every African Union and ECOWAS summit, a comprehensive peace initiative is read to the delegates by the Secretariats of both regional bodies.

Recently the focal point of concerted actions of African governments have been concentrated on the progress reports of the situation in the Ivory Coast and the Dafur Sudan region.

But when it comes to the question of the Charles Taylor extradition to face trial in Sierra Leone or Liberia, as a correction to impunity, one wonders what will be the status of the ECOWAS brokered agreement that conditioned Taylor's stepping down from power to his safe exile that was granted by President Obasanjo of Nigeria. Again one wonders as to the continuity of such an exile which was brokered in presence of South African President Thabo Mbeki!

This is why the question that the UN system can act to ensure a modification on an amendment to the sweeping powers rested in the AU and ECOWAS by the international community under the good governance dispensation to facilitate conflict resolutions and conflict prevention. This can only be done if the Charles Taylor drama can be taken as a special case and a separate UN Resolution is passed to reinforce it.



From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

## LOCAL NEWS

### **Special court Launches International Law Booklet in Sierra Leone**

By Kallie Turay  
Feb 20, 2006, 12:16

A booklet titled 'International Law made simple', was on Thursday last week launched by the Special Court at a special ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence, Tower Hill.

According to the Outreach Coordinator at the Special Court, Mrs. Binta Mansaray, the booklet is aimed at educating the public to be able to know their rights.

She also promised that the book will be made available to all Sierra Leoneans and will be sold at a reasonable cost of Two Thousand Leones (Le200).

Speaking on behalf of the Civil Society Movement, Mrs. Elen Bash Tagi praised the outreach section for bringing the people and the special court closer.

Mrs. Tagi however opined that while civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations are doing a lot to educate the public on their rights, government seems to have done very little or nothing in that regard.

She went on to state however that notwithstanding that, government believes in the notion that ignorance of the law is on excuse.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Sam Mboma, in his address, assured the general public that the military believes in the tenets of international and domestic laws, and will ensure that they are strictly adhered to.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Mansaray urged the general public and members of the Fourth Estate in particular, to promote the booklet.

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# THE PATRIOTIC VANGUARD

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## Salone News

### Special Court Launches New Booklet

- Tuesday 21 February 2006.

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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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 20 Feb 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Top UN, government security officials visit Liberia's border with I. Coast**

By Zoom Dosso

FISH TOWN, Liberia, Feb 20, 2006 (AFP) - The UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has dispatched a high-powered team, including top government officials, to the southeast of the country on the border with Ivory Coast to assess security there, the UN said Monday. The UNMIL head Alan Doss, Liberia's Defence Minister Brownie Samukai and the newly appointed Liberian army commander, Major-General Luka Yusuf of Nigeria, visited River Gee County "to gain a first-hand understanding of the security situation on the ground," UNMIL said in a statement.

Last Friday, during a visit to the county described by the United Nations as Liberia's least developed and most isolated region, Doss told journalists he had received reports of arms caches and recruitment of combatants by fighting forces in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

"We cannot overlook such information so we have decided to form a delegation comprised of UNMIL personnel and government officials to come and assess the situation," he said.

**International Clips on West Africa**

02/20/2006 04:01:39

**International mediation group meets in Ivory Coast for first time since violent protests**

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast\_A U.N.-backed international mediation group set up to help resolve Ivory Coast's ongoing crisis met with officials in this war-divided nation Friday for the first time since the group's recommendations sparked days of violence last month. U.N. Ivory Coast mission Chief Pierre Schori said talks Friday would focus on setting up an independent electoral commission ahead of elections due by October 2006.

Schori is jointly heading the so-called International Working Group, which includes top U.N. and African Union officials. The group was established in October during a meeting of the African Union's Peace and Security Council to help ensure Ivory Coast stays on track to hold elections later this year.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **UNMIL Quick Reaction Force Denies Report of Security Threats at Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire Border**

*(The News)*

- Briefing visiting United Nations Military Advisor for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Gen. Randhir Kumar Mehta in River Gee County over the weekend, UNMIL Swedish Quick Reaction Force Commander Maj. Mitchell Nilsson said that there were no cross-border security threats to the region.

### **President Commissions Truth and Reconciliation Commission Today**

*(New Democrat)*

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is expected today to commission members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at a ceremony at the Executive Mansion, according to a press release. Those to be commissioned are Cllrs. Pearl Browne Bull and Jerome Verdier, Bishop Arthur F. Kulah, Rev. Gerald Coleman, Sheik Kafumba Konneh, Dede Dolopae, Omu Syllah, Massa Washington and John Stewart.

### **U.S. Government Earmarks US\$20 Million Education Package for Liberia**

*(The Inquirer and Heritage)*

- United States Aid for International Development Director Wilbur Thomas said in Monrovia over the weekend that the U.S. Government had earmarked US\$20 million for basic education in Liberia for a two-year period.
- He said that the gesture demonstrated America's interest in seeing an improved education system in Liberia.

### **President to Honor Demobilized and Retired Soldiers**

*(National Chronicle)*

- In keeping with the Uniform Code of Military Justice, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is expected to shortly honor and decorate soldiers who were demobilized and officially retired on 11 February, Armed Forces Day, according to a reliable source. The source said that the National Defense Ministry is working out a budget of US\$750,000 to cover the planned honoring program, which includes an evening parade.

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

### **UN Envoy Says Ex-Fighters Reintegration Remains a Problem**

- During a tour of River Gee County to assess the security situation at the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border Friday, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss acknowledged that reintegrating ex-combatants remained a major problem to resolve. He said that there was still much to do to provide alternatives to the ex-combatants.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **UNMIL Forces Deploy at Liberian Border Posts**

- In an interview, UNMIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor said that the mission would intensify its military presence around the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border areas by conducting frequent patrols. He said that the UN troops would use other means to explore places that were not accessible to vehicles.
- General Obiakor re-emphasized that there was no military threat facing Liberia.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **University of Liberia to Confer Doctor of Law Degree on President**

- A University of Liberia press statement said that the university would Wednesday confer on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a Doctor of Law Degree following which she

would deliver the commencement address at this year's Convocation Program for 1,000 graduates of the school.  
(Also reported on Star Radio)

### **UNMIL Quick Reaction Force Denies Report of Security Threats at Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire Border**

(Also reported on Star Radio)

### **Liberian Immigrants Allegedly Top Rate of HIV/AIDS Infection in Minnesota, USA**

- Cases of HIV/AIDS infection among African immigrants in Minnesota, USA are reportedly rising with Liberia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Cameroun, Somalia and Uganda topping, a news website said.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

### **World Bank Pledges Support to Liberia's Recovery**

- Speaking at a special honoring ceremony in Washington DC for outgoing World Bank Executive and Liberia's new Finance Minister Dr. Antoinette Sayeh, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz said that the World Bank will support the economic recovery of Liberia.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

### **President Returns from Post-Election Nationwide Tour**

- During the first-leg of her nationwide tour following, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf pledged government's support to renovate the Tappita Memorial Hospital in Nimba County as part of government's development package for the county.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

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

### **African Development Bank Delegation Arrives in Liberia**

- An African Development Bank delegation headed by the Bank's Country Director Aliu D'jaine has arrived in the country and would meet with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and heads of other relevant ministries and agencies, a Finance Ministry statement said.

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

### **UNMIL Swedish Contingent Constructs Hostel for Orphans**

- Speaking at the dedicatory ceremony of a dormitory for the Sister Angie Orphanage Home in Bardnersville, Montserrado County, the commander of UNMIL Swedish troops said that the US\$27,000 used to erect the structure came from voluntary donations from individual soldiers and churches in Sweden. He added that apart from the dormitory, the peacekeepers assisted the orphans with clothes and other materials.

*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).*