

**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 at:

Thursday, 22 February 2007

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

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Kamajors Deny PMDC Lies

By Mohamed Kallon

A group representing former Civil Defense Forces, mainly the Kamajor militia past Friday, categorically denied the reports that linked them with Charles Margai's People Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) party.

The representatives from the south, whilst making their political position clear to the SLPP chairlady for York and Mountain Rural District, Mrs. Martha Kanagbo in a meeting held at Waterloo Street, condemned the reports in its totality as misinformation by "some misguided and disgruntled elements" in a bid to build their selfish egos.

Commenting on the issue of their former Coordinator, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, a Special Court indictee presently hospitalized in Senegal, the leader of the group said Chief Norman has never by any means communicated to them appealing to them in order to join the "so called PMDC party, or himself, Norman, at any point to pitching tents with Margai. He referred to the report as a make-up and figment of the liar's imaginations.

"In as much as we remain loyal to Chief Hinga Norman, we also believe that in spite of any other thing, we have the right to choose what we think is good for our own comfort and development," the leader stated, adding that after careful study of the present political situation in the country, they have deemed it fit to follow the ideals of the SLPP.

They reaffirmed their total support to



the SLPP and Berewa and condemned Margai's strategy of campaigning people as harmful, gearing toward the destruction of the future of the country in general.

In response, the chairlady, Mrs. Martha Kanagbo thanked the Kamajor representatives and described their move as positive and clear manifestation of their candid love for the people and the country in general.

Mrs. Kanagbo reflected their minds to the dark days when the Kamajors laid down their precious lives for the peace Sierra Leoneans are now enjoying. She urged the ex-local militias she described as freedom fighters to be courageous and remain loyal to the SLPP and the leadership of the Vice President Solomon Berewa in the July elections.

Mrs. Kanagbo referred to the leadership of the Vice President as the most competent and capable and has respect for everyone irrespective of status.

The Chairlady appealed to then to assure their colleagues countrywide that the Vice President considers them greatly, and that their display of patriotism shall never be forgotten.

New Vision

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Security on Full Alert

By Tamba Sokena
The Commanding Officer 9th
Battalion Kono, Lt. Colonel

Moses O. Mansaray has
stated that the border
between Sierra Leone and

Guinea in that part of the
country is under tight security.
The Commander who was

speaking at the ceremony
marking the first anniversary

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Security on Full Alert

of the reign of PC Aiah Dentor Foamansa Bona III and the official opening of the Jaiama Nimikoro Court Barrie noted that the security agents both army and the police were on full alert to forestall any eventuality along the Kono, Guinea border.

While assuring the people of Kono of maximum security, Lt-Colonel Mansaray explained that after the war, the military has taken a different posture known as constitutional role to man the borders with constant patrols. He also defined the role of the army as resisting the enemies, adding that both patrol and emergency mark peters were designed to beef up their strategy. "We are monitoring the Kono border alongside the police," he stated.

Lt. Colonel Mansaray on behalf of the battalion congratulated P.C. Bona III for his commitment towards peace and development in the chiefdom.

The LUC of Motema Division Kono, Ahmed B. Kandeh also

assured P.C. Bona III of maximum security. He said the police were there to ensure the protection of everyone.

He said the police presence in the chiefdom is high and also assured the guests who were in the chiefdom to witness the dual ceremony of maximum security.

Speaking at the ceremony was also the National Chairman, Jaiama Old Student Association (JOSA), Mr. Harry Lebbie. Mr. Lebbie maintained that the chiefdom councilors made the right decision by electing P.C Bona III.

He dilated on the destruction of the school, which he said, has hampered the school's progress. Mr. Lebbie, noted that the dynamic paramount chief went the extra mile to embarrass government to assist in the rehabilitation of the school.

According to the National Chairman, JOSA members have excelled in various fields of endeavour, adding that the association is blessed.

He prayed to God for JOSA to return to its former glory.

New Vision

Thursday, 22 February 2007

PRESS RELEASE

Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) views with serious concern reports that female genital cutting is allegedly being used as a political strategy to solicit votes. As a result massive initiations have allegedly been used as a political strategy to solicit votes. As a result massive initiations have allegedly occurred in Bo and Kailahun. The HRCSL has also been informed that the expenses for such initiations were allegedly solicited from and underwritten by representatives of political parties. The HRCSL has also received information that in Makeni and some southern parts of the country, boys also have been initiated also ostensibly for political gains. Without prejudging any investigations, the HRCSL strongly condemns the use of female genital cutting as a campaign strategy by any or all political parties.

The HRCSL wishes everyone to know that there is a global campaign to end female genital cutting as it constitutes violence against girls and women, a grave violation of the rights of girls and women, increases their exposure to health risks, and contributes to the subjugation of girls as well as women and the lowering of their status.

In this regard, the HRCSL calls for the institution of an immediate enquiry into the allegations and urges the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Electoral Commission and the political parties to treat any political party or person engaging in such practices as being in violation of the recently signed political parties code of conduct.

The HRCSL also urges Parliament to take action and ensure that appropriate legislation is passed to deal with all forms of violence against girl and women so that Sierra Leone complies with its international obligations, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Awareness Times
Thursday, 22 February 2007

Significant Threat Of A Fresh Rebel War

by Unisa Koroma

As exclusively first revealed by this newspaper, the Leaders of Liberia and Sierra Leone, two Mano River Union (MRU) post-conflict countries last Tuesday conferred with

their Guinean counterpart Lassana Conte, in Conakry in a bid to avoid further degeneration of the simmering public dissent plaguing that country. Awareness Times can now also reveal that the

former senior executive of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), Aisha K. Conneh has warned against a possible fresh rebel war in the MRU

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Aisha Conneh (formerly of LURD Rebels but now a senior member of the Johnson Sirleaf led Unity Party in Liberia)

MRU Rebel Threat

From Front Page

sub region by certain people whom she claimed were using her name in an alleged recruitment drive of former MRU rebels by political elements in the subregion.

Madam Conneh, the divorced wife of the former rebel leader Sheku Damate Conneh reportedly made the revelations earlier this week on a telephone line from Conkary, Guinea where her two houses have been burnt to the ground by anti-government protesters.

Aisha Conneh, has urged ex-fighters of the Liberian civil war not to allow them to be used for another conflict in the neighboring Guinea. Mrs. Conneh said such an attempt could be very detrimental to peace and security in West Africa, and also to the detriment of the future the very ex-combatants. The defunct LURD Executive's statement come in a wake of report that certain individuals residing in Monrovia were using her name to recruit former combatants to assist the Guinean Government bring the current disorder in that country under control. Mrs. Conneh who is also the a senior partisan of Liberia's ruling Unity Party led by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, said the uprising in Guinea was an internal matter, and therefore required no external force to bring it under control.

A press release issued in Monrovia quoted her as saying that those engaged in such recruitment exercise were common criminals whose intention is to undermine the existing cordial relationship between the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her Guinean counterpart, President Lansana Conteh. The release called on the Liberian Government to move swiftly and arrest anyone caught mobilizing or recruiting former Liberian fighter for any military operation in neighboring Guinea, be it in favor of President Conte or those against the Conte regime.

The statement further disclosed that the Guinean Authorities are investigating unconfirmed reports that certain former Liberian war-mongers opposed to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf are about to use the Guinean demonstration to cause chaos in the sub region.

Madam Conneh's fears have been overtly reciprocated during press briefings and in press statements issued after the meeting of the three MRU Leaders.

In a Press Statement from the Office of the Sierra Leone President yesterday, it was revealed that the two Presidents in response to queries from a journalist in Guinea, assured the Guinean people of, "their readiness at all times" to activate and "collaborate with Guinean authorities" in the implementation of the "Security Protocols" of the MRU in order to, "maintain security and preserve the

territorial integrity" of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

For her part, whilst speaking to journalists yesterday afternoon at the Roberts International Airport shortly after her visit to Guinea, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said she and President Tejan Kabbah felt the need as frontline states to engage President Conte.

President Sirleaf explained that they sought to help find a workable solution to the looming Guinea crisis, especially in assuring that the Guinean leader find the right person with whom to work. Madam Sirleaf argued that President Conte did not want a conflict in his country and assured them that he would consider some of the demands from the trade unions whose strike actions have brought the country to a complete halt in the last weeks.

On whether the three leaders discussed the key demand of the trade union demanding the resignation of President Conte, Madam Sirleaf said that was not on the table. She declared that if the Guinean President had to resign it would come as his own choosing.

President Sirleaf disclosed that she and President Kabbah were in Conakry to ensure that as those whose countries would get directly affected by any explosive conflict from Guinea engage their Guinean counterpart on how matters there could be amicably resolved.

On the delicate issue of inter-ethnic relations, which has the potential to move people across the borders of the three countries in time of conflict, the President offered a stern warning to Liberians to avoid engaging in the Guinean conflict.

She said security personnel at the border points have been alerted on this but those who would find other means to enter Guinea must expect to feel the heat on the other side. Liberia and Guinea share a long porous border area cover with dense forest, mountains and river at some points. Tribes along the borders have settlements on both sides of the divide. Meanwhile, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who flew with President Kabbah in a special United Nations plane to Guinea, after dropping President Kabbah off at Lungi Airport returned to Monrovia and then left that country for Rwanda where she will serve as a keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Parliamentary Network founded in 1997. The anniversary program is expected to bring together women leaders from around the world in celebration of the 48.8 percent of women's representation in the Rwandan Parliament. That number is about the highest in women representation in parliaments worldwide at this current time.

Awareness Times

Thursday, 22 February 2007

DO WE STILL HAVE KAMAJORS?

An Opinion by Momoh Mania in Sierra Leone

I read with great worries on the Tuesday 20th February 2007 edition of your '*keep it up, up, up*' newspaper a release from someone called Reverend Alfred Munda Foray who signed way out of the country about my own hero (though not necessarily faultless) Hinga Norman and Civil Defence Force supporting the PMDC party.

My primary problem is the use of the names 'Civil Defence Force' and 'Kamajor'. Whilst I was a very strong fan of the Kamajor militia, and of course the Kapra, the Donso and the Gbethi, I also believe that these groups had long been disbanded. Frankly speaking I hardly hear of Kapra, Gbethi or Donso these days but this Reverend who signed the release you published yesterday and quite a few people of his likes keep talking about the 'Kamajors'. They do not even talk about the 'FORMER KAMAJORS'.

The Reverend is even telling us by implication of this release that the Kamajors were never disbanded and unfortunately, a fully-registered political party in PMDC endorses this. Is this a message being sent to the nation that, God forbid a thousand times, that people have something up their sleeves come the results of the 2007 elections?

Could it be there are some North American wings of the EXISTING KAMAJORS, which may be ready to pour in money to cause whatever? God forbid again, but the peaceful citizens of this country should give a serious thought to this and be ready to say no to any other violence in this country. There is no doubt that the majority of the Kamajors, like the Kapras or Donsos, or Organised Body of Hunters have fully disarmed and are busy with their peaceful private lives. But who are these emerging Kamajors? Are we safe? Sierra Leoneans should not forget themselves anymore.

Please, please, we should be more alert than at any other time in this country. You only need to go along major streets in Freetown to see how much Sierra Leoneans are investing in terms of vehicles - private as well as commercial - shops, internet cafes, airlines, and the confidence of foreign diplomatic missions etc.

We should verbally and physically restrain people like Reverend Alfred Munda Foray (the Joseph Kony of the Ten Commandments-fame type of Uganda) from plunging us into another abyss of gloom and bitterness just for the sake of their wanting to be Mr. President or Mr. Minister of State. To them, just because they want to be thus anybody else should pay for it at whatever cost. Is that not what Sankoh did? The Reverend Munda Foray, safely tucked away in North America in particular would not have anything much to lose if any other 'kus kas' is to germinate again. At least in terms of his own life.

Let all of us, including FORMER KAMAJORS be prepared to say no to the not only vaulting but egocentric and perilous ambition power drunks who would see throwing this nation into another chaos as a picnic.

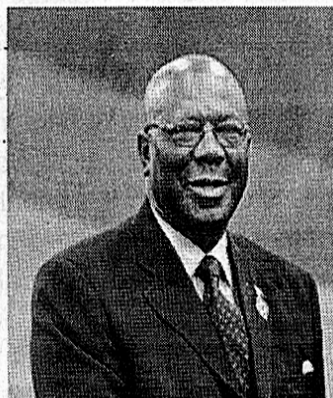
The New Citizen
Thursday, 22 February 2007

KABBAH, JOHNSON-SIRLEAF SYMPATHISE WITH CONTE

The unrest in the neighbouring Republic of Guinea which has witnessed the destruction of buildings and part of the Guinean infrastructure may have experienced a

temporary lull but the problem is far from being over.

The country continues to be ruled under marshal law with a high profile military presence in the



dent Lansana Conte as to the way forward in Guinea.

The meeting between President
Contd. back page

From page 1

KABBAH . . .

Kabbah, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and President Lansana Conte was the first since the social unrest triggered by the strike action spearheaded by the Trade Union Movement in the Republic of Guinea commenced.

A press release circulated in Freetown yesterday by the Office of the President stated among other things that President Lansana Conte appreciated the visit of President Kabbah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, especially since the two president had arrived in Conakry to find out as to what assistance they could offer to resolve the stalemate that has characterized the relationship between the people of Guinea and the government of Lansana Conte.

According to the press release from the office of the President, President Lansana Conte informed the two visiting Heads of State that he had made efforts to meet part of the demands of the Trade Union Movement by appointing a new Prime Minister, a move that is apparently not appreciated by the Trade Union, hence the impasse.

President Lansana Conteh however expressed the desire to move the process of resolving the stalemate forward by stating that in a fortnight's time, he would come up with a new decision to address the stalemate that has brought Guinea to a grinding halt.

Meanwhile, President Lansana Conte stated that he wished that the Trade Union Movement and Civil Society of Guinea would make suggestions and pass such suggestions on to President Kabbah and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, including the possible names for consideration for the position of a

new Prime Minister in an effort to reach a decision that would be acceptable to all Guineans.

President Lansana Conte has been under severe political pressure for the past several weeks as Guineans came out in large numbers to protest about the high cost of living and to demand the restructuring of the government.

The high point of the tension came to the fore when President Lansana Conte selected one of his own ministers, Eugene Camara as the new Prime Minister, a decision that was ignored by the Trade Union Movement and civil society.

Furthermore, the declaration of marshal law that eventually brought the military to the streets which also resulted to the involvement of the military in the day-to-day running of the state has also not gone down well with the agitating Trade Union Movement.

The two Presidents of Liberia and Sierra Leone assured Guineans that the security situation in Guinea would not

be allowed to deteriorate beyond acceptable limits as both Sierra Leone and Liberia would be in a state of readiness to activate and collaborate with the Guinean authorities in the implementation of the security protocols of the Mano River Union in an effort to maintain security and preserve the territorial integrity of Guinea and the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Only recently, Sierra Leoneans were asking questions as to what action the Sierra Leone government had taken to help the Guinean president address the issue of social instability in that country, a development with the potential of spilling over to neighbouring countries, including Sierra Leone and the Republic of Liberia.

However, the visit of the Liberian President and the Sierra Leonean President has apparently not changed the political and social situation in Guinea.

The Spectator
Thursday, 22 February 2007

Text books transcribe for the blind

By Abu Whyte Fofanah

The Educational Center for the Blind has embarked on the transcribing of school text books into Braille for schools for the blind in the country. The founder and Director of the Institute, Mr. Thomas Allieu, told this press yesterday that the inspiration came to him when he was studying law at the Fourah Bay College has been formed in 2001.

Thomas Allieu maintained that they presently engaged in transcribing text books in English and other local languages text books into Braille for the blind pupils. As their institution is catering for their colleagues, Mr. Alieu reveled that there are also special computer programmes that can enhance the education for the blind people.

The Director stated that as their institute has already begun to gain recognition, government is on its way to start paying the voluntary teachers. He said the beneficiaries are requested to pay Le10, 000 per year since it is difficult for them to have money. He added that they are in need of a vehicle to transport their colleagues from their different destinations.

Mr. Thomas Allieu said most of their colleagues are neglected by their parents or guidance since they cannot afford. One of their colleagues, he said, fell in a gutter because of disability.

[Thomas Allieu is an Outreach Assistant at the Special Court.]

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 20 February 2007

Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Leaders Meet

By Nico Colombant, Dakar

The leaders of Liberia and Sierra Leone met in Guinea with embattled President Lansana Conte, amid concerns his forces have been trying to recruit former rebels in Liberia. The West African regional group ECOWAS is also trying to help defuse tensions in Guinea. Prior to the meeting in Conakry, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf released a statement saying she would not tolerate Liberians being recruited as mercenaries. One of her spokesmen said she made the trip with Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to help bring peace and reconciliation to Guinea. The three countries are part of what is known as the Mano River Union. In nearby Burkina Faso, a mediator for the West African group ECOWAS, Ibrahim Babangida, met with the group's current head, Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaoré, and said he was pressing on with his own efforts.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea unions insist on new premier as talks resume

By Saliou Samb

CONAKRY, Feb 21 (Reuters) - Union leaders in Guinea entered a second day of negotiations on Wednesday aimed at ending a crippling general strike, but they rejected the idea of a trial period for a prime minister whose nomination they oppose. Strike leaders are demanding President Lansana Conte, a reclusive diabetic in his 70s, cede power. They re-launched the stoppage after Conte chose a close ally, Eugene Camara, as prime minister despite having agreed to name a consensus figure.

VOA 21 February 2007

Guinea: ECOWAS Presents Report on the Way Forward

By James Butty, Washington, D.C.

Last week, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent a delegation to Guinea to assess the crisis in that country. Tuesday, the delegation submitted a report to ECOWAS Chairman President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and African Union Chairman President John Kufuor of Ghana. Mohamed Ibn Chambas is executive secretary of ECOWAS. He said the report talks about the way forward in Guinea.

Local Media – Newspaper

Newspaper Publisher “Wanted” for Publishing Obscene Photograph

(The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The News, Public Agenda and National Chronicle)

- The Commissioner of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Liberian National Police, Steven Zargo yesterday declared the Publisher of *The Independent* newspaper, Mr. Sam O. Dean wanted because his paper violated the Penal Code of Liberia, prohibiting the dissemination of obscene materials without minimizing the risk of exposure to children under 16.
- *The Independent*, on Tuesday published a photograph of Presidential Affairs Minister Willis Knuckles in orgy with two ladies. Commissioner Zargo added that the Liberian National Police would meet with the leadership of the Press Union of Liberia on the matter.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian Government yesterday threatened to arrest and prosecute anyone found reproducing or selling the photos.
- At the same time, members of the public have called for the resignation of Minister Knuckles, alleging that the sexual act was an abuse of office.

Guinean Government Protests “Recruitment” of Liberian Mercenaries

(National Chronicle)

- The Republic of Guinea, through its Ambassador to Liberia, has registered its disgust to the Liberian Government over what it believes to be the “continuous recruitment” of Liberian mercenaries by some Guinean opposition leaders. Guinea’s complaint is in contradiction of the assertions by the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, Lt.-Gen. Isaac Chikadibia Obiakor, that there was no recruitment of mercenaries taking place inside Liberia.

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

Criminal Investigators Declare Newspaper Publisher “Wanted”

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Johnson-Sirleaf and Kabbah Meet Conteh to Resolve Guinean Crisis

- Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and Ahmed Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone yesterday met with Guinean President Lansana Conte in Conakry who assured them that he would consider some suggestions from civil society groups and trade unions to restore peace.
- The Liberian leader said that if President Conte takes the steps discussed with him, the present calm in Guinea would last. She warned that any Liberian crossing the border to participate in the conflict would be violating the Laws of Liberia and would be dealt with accordingly.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Deputies Constitute Committee to Review House Standing Rules

- The House of Representatives yesterday constituted a committee to review the printed version of its standing rules in order to infuse additional information. The Deputies argued that the addition includes Sections 41 and 42 which did not form part of the original rules of the House. A letter written to Plenary by Maryland County Representative James Binney on the issue triggered the decision.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Public Procurement Workshop Underway for Government Ministries

- The Public Procurement and Concession Commission will today, Wednesday start a 10-day workshop for Procurement Directors at government ministries and agencies under the facilitation of experts from the World Bank to ensure that procurement practices at government ministries and agencies in line with the standard of the World Bank.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Public Call for Resignation of Minister for Sexual Impropriety

- During a Radio Veritas sampling of the views of the public following the publication of an “outrageous pornographic” photo of the Minister of State Willis Knuckles and two women, members of the public called for his immediate resignation, and added that the sexual act was an abuse of office.
- At a news conference, Mr. Knuckles allegedly admitted to the act without saying bluntly that it was true, but regretted the pointless embarrassment the episode brought to his marriage of 37 years, family members and all other associates.
- At the launch of the sexual exploitation and abuse campaign organized by the Ministry of Gender, President Johnson-Sirleaf called on men not to use their power and wealth to abuse young girls and women.

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Emergency Power Faces Setbacks

- The Liberia Electricity Corporation Public Affairs Director Slewion Titoe said that the Government’s Emergency Power Program was encountering a major setback as its central power plant had a complete breakdown. The plant, which has an output of 1250 KVA supplies electricity to central Monrovia. Mr. Titoe told reporters that engineers from the LEC and Volta River Authority were making frantic efforts to identify the problem.

Liberian Refugees and other Nationals Flee Guinean Conflict

- Correspondents said that scores of Liberian refugees and other nationals have crossed into Liberia through the Liberian border town of Yekepa in Nimba County. One of the fleeing Liberians, Mr. Harris Wowoah stated that the refugees took advantage of the relaxation of the curfew in Guinea.

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.

Observateur L'Obs (Senegal)

Sunday, 21 January 2007

Évacuation

Le Tribunal spécial des Nations unies pour les Crimes de guerre en Sierra-Leone a confirmé l'évacuation sur Dakar, la capitale sénégalaise, et pour des raisons médicales, de deux suspects en attente de jugement. Les inculpés sont l'ancien Coordinateur des Forces de Défense, Sam Hingha Norman, et l'ancien leader du défunt mouvement rebelle. du Front révolutionnaire uni (RUF), Issa Sesay.

Évacuation (bis)

Le greffier du Tribunal spécial, Lovemore Munlo, a affirmé que les deux hommes, qui attendent

d'être jugés pour crimes de guerre, ont quitté Freetown mercredi, pour la capitale sénégalaise. Il n'a cependant pas donné de détails sur les maux dont ces deux suspects souffriraient ou l'hôpital vers lequel ils auraient été acheminés. Norman avait été inculpé en mars 2003 de huit chefs d'accusation, tandis que Sesay doit répondre de 18 chefs d'accusation pour crimes de guerre, crimes contre l'humanité et d'autres graves violations du droit international humanitaire.

The Chambers of Sir Desmond de Silva QC

Thursday, 22 February 2007

[Latest news - Thursday 22nd February 2007](#)

Sir Desmond de Silva QC

Chambers wish to congratulate [Sir Desmond de Silva QC](#) for receiving his Knighthood in the 2007 New Year's Honours list



Voice of America

Wednesday, 21 February 2007

Guinea Unions, Government Continue Talks Aimed at Ending Unrest



Union leader Ibrahima Fofana, center, declines to speak to the press as he leaves a meeting with government representatives in Conakry, 20 Feb. 2007

Union and government officials in Guinea have entered a second day of talks aimed at ending a strike that has led to weeks of political unrest.

A union spokesman tells VOA that the two sides are meeting again in the capital, Conakry Wednesday after initial negotiations late Tuesday.

He also says the union has rejected a proposal to give Prime Minister Eugene Camara a so-called "trial period."

Camara is a close ally of President Lansana Conte. Unions resumed a general national strike nine days ago after Camara's appointment, saying the president reneged on a deal to name an independent politician in that post.

The leaders of Sierra Leone and Liberia were in Conakry Tuesday, where they urged President Conte to find a solution to the country's political crisis.

Officials say the leaders expressed fears that violence in Guinea could destabilize the region.

Two waves of violent anti-government protests and rioting in Guinea have left more than 100 people dead. President Conte imposed martial law last week to try to end the violence.

Unions initially began their strike in January to protest widespread poverty and alleged corruption in President Conte's government.

Mr. Conte has ruled Guinea since taking power in a 1984 coup.