

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Andrew Collingwood departs the Special Court today after serving for nearly three years as Chief of General Services.

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**

Monday, 22 May 2006

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

Monday, 22 May 2006

'The American alleged spy is a terrorist' – State Counsel

Objecting to jurisdictional issues raised by defence counsel MP Fofanah at the Freetown Magistrate's Court No. 1 on Friday, Associate State Counsel Gerald Soyei stated that the American accused Michael Chemidlin charged with espionage was a terrorist. State Counsel Soyei stated that "the charge has the connotation of spying" explaining that "spying is a tool of terrorism".

He went on to explain that the snapshots were only taken after the incarceration at the Special Court for Sierra Leone of former Liberian warlord Charles Ghankay Taylor. He added that the SCSL security had every right to confiscate the camera of the accused.

Responding to his objection, the defence counsel stated that his learned colleague "cannot draw inferences that are not before the court". He disclosed that the accused was in Sierra Leone even before the apprehension of

'The American alleged spy is a terrorist' – State Counsel

From Front Page

Charles Taylor.

He pointed out that the accused persons were simply arrested and handed over to Sierra Leone security personnel without any court order from the Special Court.

Mitigating for bail for the accused persons, the Defence Counsel submitted that the first accused, Chemidlin's

"health is seriously failing".

He disclosed that the accused was suffering from malaria. The Defence Counsel pointed out that the accused's passport was apprehended and as such he would not leave the jurisdiction.

He pleaded for bail so that the first accused would be adequately treated out of prison. As for the other accused, he

stated that they were Sierra Leoneans who had reliable surety. However, Magistrate Margai refused bail "in the interest of state security."

Michael Chemidlin, Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara, are arraigned on a three-count conspiracy charge: engaging in a purpose prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone contrary to law.

Awoko

Monday, 22 May 2006

“Kabbah gave us food and ammo for the war”- *Kamajor witness*

By *Betty Milton*

The Deputy Director of War for Kailahun District in the Kamajor society, Mohamed Kellie who testified last week in the ongoing trial of members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), said while he was at Base Zero President Kabbah sent them some food items and ammunition to pursue the war.

Mr. Kellie told the Court that after the Kabbah led

Government had been overthrown by the members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), they had a meeting with Mohamed Orinko Musa at Panguma where they unanimously agreed that they should chase the junta from power.

In January 1998, he went on, some other Kamajor commanders together with him [witness] went to Base Zero where they also met Orinko who had already been there. “We explained

our mission to him and he took us to members of the War Council and we told them about the frequent attacks and bombings of the helicopter gunship belonging to the junta and that we also needed some arms and ammunition together with food and medicines. They in turn promised to attend to our needs.”

He went on, “during my stay at Base Zero I observed that there was a satellite phone which Chief Norman used to

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“Kabbah gave us food and ammo for the war”

From Page 2

communicate with President Kabbah in the presence of late Prince Brima, former British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) correspondence. He told him that his [Kabbah] children from Lower Bambara had gone there and that they were in need of certain items and he [Kabbah] promised that within three days he would respond to them.

After the date set by the President, the witness maintained, he saw a helicopter, which landed, and the first person that disembark was Mr. M.S. Dumbuya. He said they were then given orders to remove the items from the helicopter.

“The items were petrol, gasoline, engine oil, some food items and arms such as bullets. Members of the War Council then had a meeting in which it was agreed that we [Kamajors] be assigned

to various positions and ranks. I was then appointed Deputy Director of War for Kailahun District, Vandy Songo was appointed Director of Intelligence Eastern Region, Mr. Jambawai, Regional Coordinator Eastern Region,” he disclosed.

The Deputy Director of War further stated that they were later assembled by Orinko who distributed the arms and ammunition to commanders of the various districts for them to pursue the junta.

On his way to his district, the witness said, he made a stop at Buojobu where they received information that Kamajors were going to attack Tongo where the junta had made their base and so they proceeded on the attack.

After the attack, he went on, he presented the ammunition to Musa Junisa and B.J.K. Sei who was the Chiefdom Commander of

Lower Bambara.

After two days he went to Kailahun by orders from members of the War Council.

While in Kailahun Mr. Kellie affirmed they received information that ECOMOG had taken over Kenema and so he decided to go there.

Upon their arrival, he said, they met Colonel Yayah Abubakarr who was the commander of the ECOMOG battalion there and he [witness] informed the Col. about their plight in Kailahun

“I told him that we needed food, ammunition and medicines. He later gave these items with a van. In Bunubu, I told them that I had been ordered by Col Abubakarr to capture Seigbuma. After we captured Daru Barracks and we went to Kenema where I was promoted to the rank of Deputy Director of Operations,” he disclosed.

Scotsman.com

Sun 21 May 2006

Sierra Leone sees justice slip from its grasp

CHRIS STEPHEN IN FREETOWN

IT WAS a chance to show the world that their country could be taken seriously on the world stage. Both politicians and victims were jubilant that Sierra Leone would be putting Charles Taylor, the first African leader indicted for war crimes by the UN, on trial in the nation he subdued and pillaged.

The former Liberian president is accused of masterminding murders, rapes and torture on a vast scale during 12 years of war, and his capture last month was a major coup for the UN-backed Special Court in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown.

But cheers at his capture have turned to dismay. Scotland on Sunday can reveal that Britain and America are backing a call by court president Raja Fernando to move the trial thousands of miles to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

London and Washington believe the region is too insecure to make a trial safe, fearing that Taylor could organise a prison breakout.

But Sierra Leonians insist the country must be given the chance to show it can administer justice itself. The parliament has joined human rights groups in protesting against the move, a potential source of embarrassment for Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has made support for African reform a key foreign policy objective.

Dr Alusine Fuganah, chairman of parliament's influential Human Rights Committee, said: "The majority of people think that if he is tried here, it will give psychological satisfaction of seeing this man, who caused so much harm to us, brought to court."

There is also annoyance in one of the world's poorest countries that the UN is to be asked to pay a bill estimated at more than £10m for holding the trial in Europe. "Why are the Americans coming now with this huge commitment of money for the Special Court to move?" said Fuganah. "Why not spend the money on the victims?"

A short drive out of Freetown along the disintegrating main road is the village of Waterloo. Buildings are scarred from battles between the Taylor-backed Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and government forces in the 1990s. But amid the destruction are 10 bungalows, built to house some of the thousands of wartime amputees.

They are victims of an especially cruel chapter in the blood-soaked history of the RUF, which began severing limbs in response to a call in 1996 by the country's elected president, Dr Ahmad Kabbah, to "join hands" in peace.

Ishmael Daramy, a 48-year-old farmer from the northern provinces, lost his hands one June morning while walking back to his village.

Out of the bush, a patrol of RUF soldiers appeared, stopping him at gunpoint. Forced to kneel, a log was produced and put behind him. Then, while one soldier held him down, another pulled his arm around behind his back, resting his wrist on the wood. Then a machete was used to cut off his hand.

Screaming with pain, Daramy's other arm was forced behind him and his other hand severed. Then he was told to go. "The soldiers told me: 'Go to Kabbah, go to the UN, go there to get your hands back.'"

In agony, Daramy begged the soldiers to shoot him and put him out of his misery.

Then, holding his arms up to try to stem the flow of blood, Daramy staggered for eight hours to his home village. A doctor was summoned, and so was his wife. "When she saw me she started to cry," he said. "We had a small baby, we did not know how we would survive."

Ten years on, this once proud man, his original home destroyed by the rebels, is forced to beg in a Freetown market while his wife and children tend a vegetable plot at their house.

The UN has indicted Taylor on 11 counts of helping to destabilise West Africa through killings, sexual slavery and sending children into combat.

Taylor was one of Africa's most brutal dictators. Trained in Marxist insurgency techniques in Libya during the 1980s, he staged a coup to seize power in Liberia in 1989. But his real objective was neighbouring Sierra Leone, and its rich diamond fields. In 1991 he sent men and weapons to back an RUF uprising in the east.

Soon large chunks of Sierra Leone, including the diamond mines, were in rebel hands. Prosecutors say Taylor gave diamonds to his Libyan sponsors in return for weapons to widen the war.

The RUF used atrocities to terrify Sierra Leone's population into abandoning the countryside. A campaign titled No Living Thing destroyed every building in the north-eastern provinces, leaving hundreds of towns and villages flattened.

Hundreds of prisoners were used as slaves in the diamond fields or as human mules to take diamonds across the border, while their children were brainwashed and formed into combat units. By 1996 the RUF was strong enough to attack the capital Freetown, joining with splinters of the army to drive out Kabbah.

Taylor's fortune is estimated in the tens of millions, and he is said to control a criminal empire spanning West Africa, with associates in Guinea, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

In August 2003, his countrymen in Liberia rebelled - after a war which killed 200,000 - and he fled to Nigeria, triggering an ambitious drive by more than 300 African human rights groups to bring him to trial back in Sierra Leone.

After the EU and Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, joined the calls for his arrest, the US added its muscle, and in April Taylor was arrested in a car containing large bags of cash. He arrived by helicopter at the Special Court with much of Freetown watching, cheering, from the streets and roofs.

The reason so many groups joined the campaign was the hope that the Special Court could provide a solution to some of Africa's woes. Unlike other war crimes courts, it is co-owned by the government and the UN, bringing hope that the continent can help run its own justice system.

"We want him to be tried here," said James Matthew, of Freetown's National Movement for Democracy and Human Rights. "That way the people are satisfied. If the trial is held far away, the people are not involved, they do not hear, they do not see."

Diplomats say the British-backed plan is due to come to the UN Security Council for approval in late June.

The move will not be cheap, as judges, prosecutors, lawyers and witnesses, plus support staff, must be flown to Holland and accommodated in one of Europe's most expensive cities. Only a handful of Sierra Leone's journalists will be given support to make the trip and the court says only edited highlights of the trial will be presented to Sierra Leone's population.

Even the court is split over the idea. As well as the court president, acting chief prosecutor Desmond de Silver, an eminent British QC, supports the idea. But the court's Principal Defender, Vincent Nmehielle, says the whole objective of the Special Court is undermined if foreign powers are able to override its operations. "The institutions are all here," he said. "The witnesses are all here, we want the people to heal and to confront their aggressors. How many people will go to The Hague?"

Associated Press

Friday, 19 May 2006

Sierra Leone charges American with plotting to free Charles Taylor from jail

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) -- Prosecutors charged an American man and two Sierra Leoneans Friday with plotting to help ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor escape from a U.N.-Sierra Leone war crimes court.

Michael Chemidlin, an former U.S. soldier, had been released after being detained earlier for taking pictures of the court, but was apprehended again this week. "Is this an attempt to rescue him?" prosecutor Gerald Soyei said in court Friday. "These are all rescuers, especially first accused," he said of Chemidlin.

Human Rights Watch

Monday, 22 May 2006

For Immediate Release

African Union: Senegal Must Make Habré Face Justice

AU Legal Panel Meets to Discuss Chad's Ex-Dictator

(New York, May 22, 2006) - The African Union must call on Senegal to fulfill its legal commitments and ensure that the exiled former dictator of Chad, Hissène Habré, is brought to justice, Human Rights Watch said today.

An AU legal panel begins meeting today in Addis Ababa to study how the Habré case should be handled.

"The African Union experts must tell Senegal to extradite Hissène Habré or prosecute him," said Reed Brody, special counsel at Human Rights Watch. "Sending Habré to Belgium is the most realistic option for ensuring a prompt and fair trial. But if Senegal won't extradite him, it is obliged to see that he is tried in Senegal or elsewhere."

Habré, who fled to Senegal in 1990 after an eight-year rule marked by widespread atrocities, was first indicted in 2000 in Senegal. After Senegalese courts ruled that he could not be tried there, Habré's victims pursued justice by turning to Belgium, which indicted him last September.

In November, after a Senegalese court refused to rule on his extradition, the Senegalese government asked the African Union to decide the matter. The African Union appointed a committee of jurists to study the case and propose a solution to leaders meeting at the AU summit in July.

The 1984 U.N. Convention against Torture, which Senegal ratified in 1986, obliges states to either prosecute or extradite alleged torturers who enter its territory. Last week, the United Nations Committee against Torture condemned Senegal for failing to bring Habré to justice and requested that Senegal ensure Habré's trial or extradition.

In a 29-page submission to the African Union, Human Rights Watch said that Habré's extradition to Belgium or his trial by Senegal represented the only viable paths to justice (Please see: <http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/africa/chad1205/>).

The African Union has refused to reveal the names of the committee of jurists or to allow Habré's victims or their supporters to meet with the committee.

The Belgian government has said that if Senegal refuses to extradite Habré, Belgium will invoke article 30 of the Convention against Torture, which could lead it to take Senegal before the International Court of Justice. A decision by the international court would be legally binding on Senegal.

In March, the European Parliament also called on Senegal to bring Habré to trial or extradite him to Belgium (Please see: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/03/16/chad13076.htm>).

The Human Rights Watch submission concludes that Habré's extradition to Belgium represents the most feasible and promising option for his trial. The creation of a new African tribunal would be too distant, too contingent and too costly, Human Rights Watch said. The study also ruled out Habré's return to Chad because of the risks to Habré's own security and the difficulties of ensuring that he would receive a fair trial. Senegal has already said that it will not try the case. If the African Union recommends that Habré's trial take place in Africa, it should call on Senegal to reverse itself and allow Habré to stand trial there, Human Rights Watch said.

Background

Hissène Habré ruled Chad from 1982 until 1990, when he was deposed by current President Idriss Déby Itno and fled to Senegal. His one-party regime was marked by widespread atrocities. Habré periodically targeted various ethnic groups, killing and arresting group members en masse when he believed that their leaders posed a threat to his regime. Files of Habré's political police, the DDS (Direction de la Documentation et de la Sécurité), discovered by Human Rights Watch in 2001, reveal the names of 1,208 persons who died in detention. A total of 12,321 victims of different abuses were mentioned. In these files alone, Habré received 1,265 direct communications from the DDS about the status of 898 detainees.

Last September, a Belgian judge issued an international arrest warrant charging Habré with crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture. Pursuant to the arrest warrant and a Belgian extradition request, Senegalese authorities arrested Habré on November 15. After a Senegalese court refused to rule on the extradition request, Senegal announced that it had asked the January summit of the African Union to recommend "the competent jurisdiction" for the trial of Habré. That summit set up a Committee of Eminent African Jurists to consider the options for Habré's trial and to report back at the forthcoming AU summit in July.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Friday, 19 May 2006

Ellen, Others Lead Campaign For Taylor's Move To The Hague

Former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor has since been arrested, arraigned before the Special War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone, charges read to him and even pleaded not guilty to the charges leveled against him and set to appear in court next year.

But reports from Freetown paint a different picture of the Taylor trial episode.

Reports from the Special Court quoting Deputy Prosecutor Christopher Saykor said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf along with other leaders in the sub-region is making frantic efforts to have the former Liberian leader trail transferred to The Hague.

The Hague is where the International Court is located.

Without naming the rest of leaders who along with President Sirleaf want Taylor removed out of Freetown, he alleged that the Liberian leader is in constant contact with authorities.

According to reports monitored in Monrovia from Freetown, Deputy Prosecutor Saykor did not state reasons behind the call for Taylor's transfer to The Hague, but indicated that authorities of the court said such request needed to be considered.

At the same time, the reports quoted Chief Prosecutor of the Court Desmond De Silva as acknowledging the significance of the request.

De Silva said whatever security concerns the Liberian leader may have known to her, but added that it was equally advisable to consider the request, adding "It is through the efforts of President Sirleaf that Mr. Taylor is in the custody of the Special Court." This is the first time the Liberian leader has been linked to requesting for the transfer of Mr. Taylor's trial to The Hague since he was deported from Nigeria, subsequently arrested and sent to Freetown last month.

She is however on records for calling for a "free and fair trial" of the former Liberian President.

Long before this latest alleged request from the Liberian leader and her sub-regional counterparts, other world leaders, many Liberian organizations as well as concerned personalities made similar representation, calling for the transfer of the trial of Mr. Taylor from Sierra Leone to The Hague in the Netherlands.

They argued that trying Mr. Taylor in Sierra Leone will not augur well for the sub-region in that Mr. Taylor's followers could cause trouble.

In another development, the Sierra Leone Journalists Association has reportedly issued a statement calling for "a free and fair trial" for Mr. Taylor.

Meanwhile, the Executive Mansion in Monrovia has reportedly promised to react to the story coming from Sierra Leone.

This is not the first time the Liberian leader has been linked to "under-the-cover" move in the Taylor episode.

It may be recalled that she was accused of secretly writing an official note to the Nigerian government to turn over Mr. Taylor to the court to face war crime charges.

The government vehemently then denied knowledge of the report, but later succumbed.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 20 May 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

05/19/2006 14:56:36

Liberian town under control after ethnic clashes: UN

MONROVIA, May 19, 2006 (AFP) - The security situation in Liberia's northern town of Ganta has come under control after pre-dawn ethnic clashes earlier this week sent thousands fleeing from their homes into neighbouring forests, a United Nations official said Friday. "The situation is now under control and there is no threat to the security of Liberia," General Isaac Obiakor, commander of the UN peacekeeping troops in Liberia (UNMIL), told reporters in Monrovia.

The Boston Globe 19 May 2006

AMERICANS ADOPTING MORE AFRICAN CHILDREN; ORPHANS AVAILABLE AND WARS ENDING

John Donnelly, Globe Staff

MONROVIA, Liberia American couples are adopting more African children, prompted by an increase in the number of orphans, the end of wars, and even by movie star Angelina Jolie's adoption of a baby girl in Ethiopia last year, according to analysts and agencies that help place the children. Ethiopia and Liberia have become particularly popular for adoptive American parents because of the relatively simple regulations and because both nations allow US agencies to operate in their countries, facilitating the complicated process. Last year, US immigration officials granted 623 visas for orphans from Ethiopia and Liberia, according to the State Department.

05/19/2006 16:23:19

Sierra Leone prosecutor says US 'terrorist' plotted Charles Taylor jailbreak

FREETOWN, May 19, 2006 (AFP) - A Sierra Leone prosecutor Friday accused an American and two Sierra Leoneans of plotting to spring Liberia's ex-leader Charles Taylor from jail and branded the United States citizen a "terrorist". American Michael Chemidlin -- a retired United States Marine staff sergeant -- and Sierra Leoneans Felix Rogers and Collins Koroma were re-arrested Tuesday, a day after being released, after charges against them were altered.

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

U.S. Envoy Says Murderers of U.S. Military Officer Will Face Justice

- Speaking yesterday at a program in memory of the slain U.S. Military assessment team leader to Liberia in 2004, John Auffrey, U.S. ambassador Donald Booth said that no matter how long it took, justice would prevail in Auffrey's murder case.
- Liberian National Police Inspector-General Beatrice Munnah Sieh urged security forces in the country to provide clues that will lead to the arrest of Mr. Auffrey's murderers.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

International Partners to Empower Telecom Sector of Liberia

- Briefing journalist after his visit to Europe yesterday, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Jackson Doe said that Liberia's international partners had consented to provide technical and logistical support and fellowships to boost the telecommunications sector.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Malaysians Express Interest in Liberia Rubber

- Information Minister Johnny McClain said yesterday that the Government of Malaysia had expressed interest in investing in Liberia, particularly in the rubber, palm and timber sectors. Briefing journalists yesterday on Vice President Joseph Boakai's recent visit to Malaysia, Minister McClain added that the decision to invest in Liberia followed negotiations between several Malaysian companies and a Liberian delegation to Malaysia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Nigerian Movie Star Bemoans Death of Liberian Children by Famine

- Addressing journalists on arrival in Liberia yesterday, Nigerian movie star, Omotola Jalade Ekeinde, described as pathetic the death of thousands of children as a result of starvation. Ms. Ekeinde encouraged Liberians to participate in a walk to raise funds to eradicate hunger around the world.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Correction: UNMIL Dedicates Road Linking Montserrado Townships

- Based on Liberian radio reports, the media summary yesterday incorrectly reported the cost of repairs to a four-mile road that links Barnersville and Caldwell which had been carried out by the Pakistani contingent at a cost of US\$120,000.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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

Liberian Refugees in Burkina Faso Want President's Help to Return Home

- An Executive Mansion source yesterday said that Liberian refugees in Burkina Faso had appealed to President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to expedite their repatriation to Liberia.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 19 May 2006

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International Clips on Liberia

05/19/2006 04:02:15

UN staffer suspended in Liberia sex scandal

Turkish Daily News via NewsEdge Corporation: The United Nations said Tuesday that one staffer had been suspended after allegations of sexual exploitation in Liberia were confirmed and warned that it would show "zero tolerance" towards offenders. A total of eight cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the year were under investigation, said Marie Heuze, a spokeswoman for the U.N.

05/18/2006 15:25:33

President Sirleaf Expresses Commitment to ECOWAS

By Ibrahim Seibure

Freetown, May 18, 2006 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Foreign Minister of the Economic Community of West African States Monday met in the Liberian capital, Monrovia to discuss the politics and security situation in the sub-region, a communiqué states. Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in her opening statement expressed appreciation to ECOWAS for its support in bringing peace to Liberia and the holding of the Foreign ministers' meeting that is in recognition of the fact that Liberia is on the part to recovery and pledged that Liberia would never again be considered the epicenter of conflict in West Africa.

International Clips on West Africa

05/19/2006 09:38:42

Power brokers warn Ivorians against sabotage of peace process

ABIDJAN, May 19, 2006 (AFP) - International power brokers warned Ivorians Friday against any attempts to impede the peace process in their battered country a day after planned disarming of rival forces failed to kick off. Rodolphe Adada, foreign minister of the Congo Republic, hailed progress made so far, saying the international community "substantially supports efforts" being made by the government of Charles Konan Banny.

05/18/2006 15:26:22

Sierra Leonean Elected Special Court President

Freetown, May 18, 2006 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --A Sierra Leonean, Justice George Gelaga King has been elected the new President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Justice George Gelaga King was elected Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber. Justice King will succeed Justice Raja Fernando of Sri Lanka, whose term ends on 26 May.

Local Media – Newspapers

Economic Management Program Experts Arrive

(Daily Observer, The News and The Analyst)

- The Economic Governance Steering Committee, which is responsible for implementing the Governance and Economic Management Program announced the arrival yesterday of internationally recruited financial comptrollers for the Roberts International Airport, National Port Authority, Forestry Development Authority and the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company.

Nigerian Movie Star to Participate in Fight Hunger Walk in Liberia

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, The Informer and The Telegraph)

- Nigerian movie star Omotola Jalade Ekeinde is to arrive in Liberia today to raise support for the World Food Program anti-hunger campaign, Fight Hunger-Walk the World, which takes place on Sunday in Monrovia and throughout the world.
- Ms. Ekeinde, Education Minister Joseph Korto, WFP's Deputy Country Director Abdurahman Meygag and Fight Hunger-Walk the World Regional Coordinator for Africa, Femi Amure, will address a special briefing today.

UNMIL To Provide Volunteer Professors to University of Liberia

(The Informer)

- The University of Liberia (UL) announced recently that 31 UNMIL and Liberian volunteer professors will join the UL instructional staff at the beginning of the next trimester in July. A UL press release said that UNMIL had agreed to a request from UL authorities for faculty assistance.

Jordanian Medical Team Receives UN Medals

(The Informer)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss yesterday presented UN medals to 115 officers of the UNMIL Jordanian medical contingent. Mr. Doss said that Jordanian medical personnel have treated 3,174 patients, including hundreds of Liberian civilians, for which the contingent has the gratitude of the United Nations and the people of Liberia.

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

Special Court Says Liberian President Wants Taylor Transferred

- According to correspondents covering the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the court's Deputy Prosecutor Christopher Staker said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had appealed to the court to transfer former President Charles Taylor's trial to The Hague. Chief Prosecutor Desmond da Silva urged the court should listen to President Johnson-Sirleaf's concern.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government to Sue Illegal Diamond Dealers

- In a press statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy said that the government would sue anyone transacting diamond business within its borders without being certified under the Kimberley Process, adding that anyone found guilty of such an illegal transaction would be sentenced to 6 months in prison.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Lawmaker Wants Travel Ban Investigated

- In a letter addressed to her colleagues in the Legislature, Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor called for an investigation into the United States travel advisory for Liberia. She said the advisory is capable of undermining the stability of Liberia and scaring away potential investors.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government Launches Probe into Violence in Nimba County

- Briefing journalists yesterday, Information Minister Johnny McClain said that the government has constituted a committee to investigate the violence that erupted Wednesday in Ganta, Nimba County, adding that anyone found guilty would face the full weight of the law.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

UNMIL and Liberian Volunteers to Lecture at University of Liberia

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

UNICEF Refurbishes Schools in Rural Liberia

- The United Nations Children Fund's (UNICEF) and its partners said that they have rehabilitated 13 public schools in Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Montserrado Counties and constructed a new school block at Kpotomai, Lofa County at the cost of over US\$500,000, a press release issued yesterday.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

UNMIL Dedicates Road Linking Montserrado Townships

- UNMIL yesterday dedicated a four-mile road that links Barnersville and Caldwell after it had been rehabilitated by the Pakistani contingent at the cost of US\$30,000. Montserrado County Superintendent Madame Nyennekon Snoh-Barcon lauded UNMIL and said that the repair has ended the transportation problem.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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

Youth Development Group Empowers the Disabled

- Speaking to ELBS Radio yesterday, African Youth Development Action Project Executive Director Jerry Boweh said that the group has donated crutches and wheelchairs to people with disabilities.

Advocacy Group Calls for Travel Ban on Former Warlords

- In a press release issued yesterday, the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia said that it wanted former warlords to be barred from traveling in order for them to face justice.

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.