

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



Yesterday's Outreach in Makeni on the "Operations of the Special Court and the Impact on the Rights of Women and Children". See today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Friday, 23 November 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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New Vision  
Friday, 23 November 2007

# Gov't To Take Ownership Of TRC Report

*By Amara A. Samura*

The Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone has called on President Ernest Koroma's government to take ownership of the implementation process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The

Commission also proposed to government to formulate a comprehensive implementation strategy with clear allocation of

responsibilities for the relevant ministries and agencies with implementation time frame.

They made this  
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## Gov't To Take Ownership of TRC Report

recommendation at the end of a two day stakeholders conference on the status of the implementation of the TRC recommendations at the Bank of Sierra Leone Complex recently.

Reading the Communique at a news conference held at the Commission's headquarters on Wellington Street on Wednesday, Miss Yasmin Jusu Sheriff said government should commence the implementation of the reparation programme in order to reduce the sufferings of the victims of the conflict and restore their human dignity. She said this can be done by urgently amending the Act which created the NaCSA to legally empower it

to carry out the reparation programme.

She added that they should also establish and launch a Special Fund for war victims and allocate resources to enhance the sustainability of the programme between now and the end of March next year.

Participants at the conference urged that government should direct constitutional review commission to incorporate into the constitution without modifications of all TRC recommendations addressed to the constitution as it reviews the 1991 constitution and demonstrate a strong political will for the timely implementation of the

recommendations of the TRC.

The conference was organized by the Human Rights Commission in partnership with United Nations Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OHCA) and Civil Society organizations.

## The Patriotic Vanguard

Friday, 23 November 2007

### **Government urged to implement TRC recommendations**

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, in partnership with the United Nations and Civil Society Organisations, has urged the new Government and the international community to redouble efforts towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

In a communiqué issued following a two-day consultation held in Freetown, on 19 and 20 November, on the implementation status of the recommendations, stakeholders called on the Government, the international community - the moral guarantors of the Lome Peace Accord that ended the civil conflict -, and other actors to take ownership of and expedite the implementation process of the TRC recommendations.

The communiqué also called for the formulation of a comprehensive implementation strategy with clear allocation of responsibilities to the relevant Ministries and Agencies on a timely basis. The implementation also requires the full support of donor countries.

Participants in the consultations encouraged as well civil society and other non-state actors to be proactive in sensitizing the public on the recommendations of the TRC report.

It was further underscored that the recommendations are critical for peace consolidation in Sierra Leone.

Source: UNIOSIL, Freetown.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 November 2007

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

11/22/2007 07:07:38

#### **Belgian firm blames Liberia govt. for executive's murder**

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: November 22, 2007

MONROVIA, Nov 22, 2007 (AFP) - Liberia's Belgian-owned rubber giant on Thursday blamed the recent death of its executive on negligence by security officials in the west African country. Bruno Michael, manager of the **Liberia** Agriculture Co. (LAC), was gunned down on Saturday at the firm's rubber plantation near the town of Buchanan, 85 kilometres (53 miles) east of the capital Monrovia.

#### **Liberia arrests 26 in Belgian executive murder case : UN**

Agence France-Presse English Wire via NewsEdge Corporation :

MONROVIA, Nov 22, 2007 (AFP) - At least 26 people have been arrested in connection with the murder last weekend of a Belgian executive in the west African country of Liberia, the UN peacekeeping mission there said Wednesday. Bruno Michael, manager of the Belgian-owned Liberian Agriculture Company (LAC), was gunned down on Saturday at the firm's rubber plantation near the town of Buchanan, 85 kilometres (53 miles) east of the capital Monrovia.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Ex-Child Soldier Named UNICEF Advocate**

By EDITH M. LEDERER – 8 hours ago

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Former child soldier and best-selling author Ishmael Beah has taken on a new role — showing children caught in conflict that there can be a better life after war and urging government leaders to help fund their return to society. Beah, a 27-year-old survivor of Sierra Leone's civil war, was appointed UNICEF's first Advocate for Children Affected by War on Wednesday, saying he wants to show that his story of redemption need not be unique.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **LAC Blames Government for murder of its Plantation Manager**

(Daily Observer, The Monitor, National Chronicle, Liberian Express, the Inquirer)

- The Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) said the Government is to blame for the death of its plantation manager, Bruno Michiels, last Saturday.
- Speaking on Wednesday before the body was flown to home, LAC General Manager, George Mensah said the government failed to respond to series of insecurity breaches on the plantation for the past three years.

### **Liberia to get debt relief from Nigeria**

(The News, New Democrat, Daily Observer, and Liberian Express)

- Nigeria's President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua is seeking the support of his country's National Assembly to write-off US\$13 million debt out of a total debt of US \$48 million owed Nigeria by Liberia. President Yar'adua said the gesture is to enable Liberia sustain the present peace process after long years of war.

### **Liberia's Truth Commission Begins Public Hearings Next**

(Daily Observer, The Monitor, National Chronicle, Liberian Express, the Inquirer, Heritage, The News, The Informer)

- A statement attributed to the head of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission says the TRC plans to open public hearings in January on war atrocities committed during the country's civil war was also covered. Counsellor Jerome Verdier is widely quoted in the media as saying that the hearings are intended to promote reconciliation and restore dignity to victims.

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

#### **LAC Blames Government for Murder of its Expatriate Staff**

- Speaking at a memorial service for the late Plantation Manager of the Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC), the General Manager of the company, Mr. George Mensah blamed the death on government's failure to provide maximum security at the company's premises despite series of insecurity breaches at the plantation.
- Mr. Mensah said repeated cries of insecurity have fallen on death ears thereby sending a message to the people of Grand Bassa that they could do anything to LAC and its employees with impunity.
- Justice Minister, Counsellor Philips Banks however said the primary security in Liberia is in the hands of the United Nations forces, an apparent reaction to claims by the LAC that government has failed to provide security to the company leading to the killing of its plantation manager, Bruno Michiel last Saturday by unknown persons.
- Cllr. Banks said government is beefing-up its security to provide protection to all of its development partners and assured that in the next few days, government will speak about the progress in the investigation.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

#### **TRC Begins Public Hearing Next January**

- The Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Cllr. Jerome Verdier has announced that the commission would begin public hearings on atrocities committed during the country's civil crisis on January 8, 2008.
- Addressing reporters yesterday, Cllr. Verdier said the hearings would constitute a forum for victims, perceived perpetrators and war actors and would pay special attention to issues of sexual and gender based violence.
- The TRC Chairman averred that no Liberian would be exempted during the public hearings and said Liberians who committed various atrocities would be called in.
- *(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

#### **UN Envoy Urges More Night-Time Patrol by Police**

- The Outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Alan Doss has called for stepped up anti-crime patrols to keep communities in the country safe.
- Mr. Doss stressed that officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) should fully engage in night-time patrols with their counterparts in the UN Police and Military saying the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is providing armed support and transport for these anti-crime patrols and the consistent presence of the Liberian police in this effort is essential.
- An UNMIL releases issued in Monrovia said Mr. Doss made assertion at a ceremony to honour 290 Nepalese peacekeepers serving with UNMIL.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

**Nigeria to write off \$US13 Million Loan for Liberia**

- Nigerian President, Umaru Musa Yar'adua in a letter to the National Assembly has proposed writing off \$US13 million out of a total debt of \$US48 million Liberia owed that country.
- President Yar'adua said the debt was an obstacle to economic recovery after 14 years of civil war and saddled with 4.5 billion in foreign debts.
- He said the debt reprieve for Liberia is part of an international initiative to help the country clear its huge debt arrears owed to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank (ADB).
- Liberia owes the ADB a total of \$US249 million and said of this amount about \$US48 million represents loans refinanced through the Nigeria Trust Fund window which was set up by Nigeria in 1976 under ADB management to assist poor African countries with soft loans towards meeting their developmental needs.

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**Special Court Supplement**  
**Outreach, “Operations of the Special Court and the Impact on the Rights of Women and Children”**  
**Makeni, 22 November 2007**







