

**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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 25 April 2008

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

Shameful! Ex-President Kabbah Dodges Special Court... / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 3-4
“Charles Taylor is an Innocent Man” / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 5-6
Hinga Norman Family/Former CDF Join APC / <i>We Yone</i>	Page 7

International News

(Untitled) / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Pages 8-9
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 10-11

SHAMEFUL!

Ex-President Kabbah dodges Special Court, escapes to Guinea

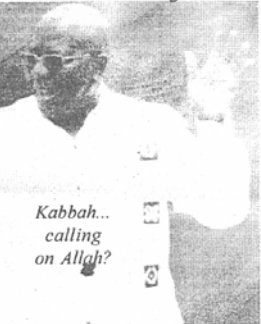
Apologists of ex-president Kabbah are arguing on his behalf, stating that he did not dodge the Special Court yesterday, when he quietly left Sierra Leone for the Republic of Guinea-Conakry, while pessimists are saying that he is very notorious for evading court sittings, citing his continued and deliberate absence from the ECOWAS court in Abuja where he was to respond to charges against Human Rights violations filed against him Mr. Mohammed Kamal Wansa. Ex-president, Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was to make himself available yesterday as witness at the Special Court to testify in favour or against RUF, Issa Sesay who subpoenaed him as a witness. To the surprise of the Special Court, the witness was conspicuously absent, and the court

...Attorney General's office to serve subpoena

was informed that he had left for Guinea. The Registrar of the court explained that the subpoena was

not served on him, which could serve as an excuse for his absence. According to Defense Counsel for Issa Sesay, Lawyer Wayne

Joreash, several efforts were made by the server to serve the subpoena. He said, at one instance; the witness's son blocked the



Kabbah... calling on Allah?

court server at his residence, telling him that his father was sleeping and cannot accept the document on his behalf "The server left" Said Defence Counsel

CONTINUED PAGE 11

LAWCLA writes Chairman...

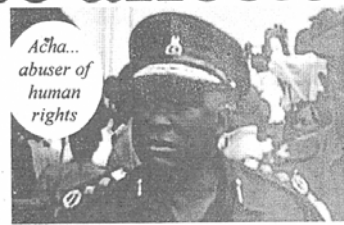
Human rights abuse affects 55 Police Officers

...administrative blunders

BY ALHAJIS AIDU KAMARA
Following the suspension of salaries of fifty-five junior police of-

ficers currently pursuing various courses at tertiary institutions in the country, the Lawyers Center

for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) a legal firm
CONTINUED PAGE 15



Acha... abuser of human rights

Ex-President Kabbah dodges Special Court, escapes to Guinea

FROM PAGE 1

Joreash. However, recent rule adopted by the Special Court states that the office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in collaboration with the Registrar's office should serve the subpoena on the ex-president, which situation they are planning to adopt when he returns from Guinea probably on the 3rd, May 2008. Some members of his Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and close allies who are familiar with his behaviour have opined that he may not return on the 3rd May, 2008 as speculated

and that he might continue his journey to another destination, since he is aware that the Special Court is compelling him to appear and testify. Court sources say, despite a subpoena was not served on him, but a copy of the order was sent to him which he received, therefore; if he is a respecter of the law he should have responded to the order of the court. Wednesday this week, the ex-president appeared in parliament and addressed a cross section of parliamentarians on the subject of peace consolidation. It is known what his

mission to Guinea signifies; whether to hibernate in President Lansana's Conte territory as he did in 1987/88 for about nine months during the interregnum in Sierra Leone or to solicit advice from him as to how he should present his testimony at the special court is yet unknown. Meanwhile, judgment at the Abuja ECOWAS court will be delivered on the 30th June, 2008 against the Republic of Sierra Leone as the 1st Defendant and ex-president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as the 2nd Defendant in the case of Human Right Abuse

Concord Times
Friday, 25 April 2008

"Charles Taylor is an innocent man"

By *Ogundeji Olusegun in Monrovia, Liberia*

Former Liberian president on trial in The Hague is an innocent man until otherwise proven guilty, says

Liberian, minister of information, culture and tourism, Dr. Lawrence K. Bropleh.

"Charles Taylor is an innocent man until he is declared

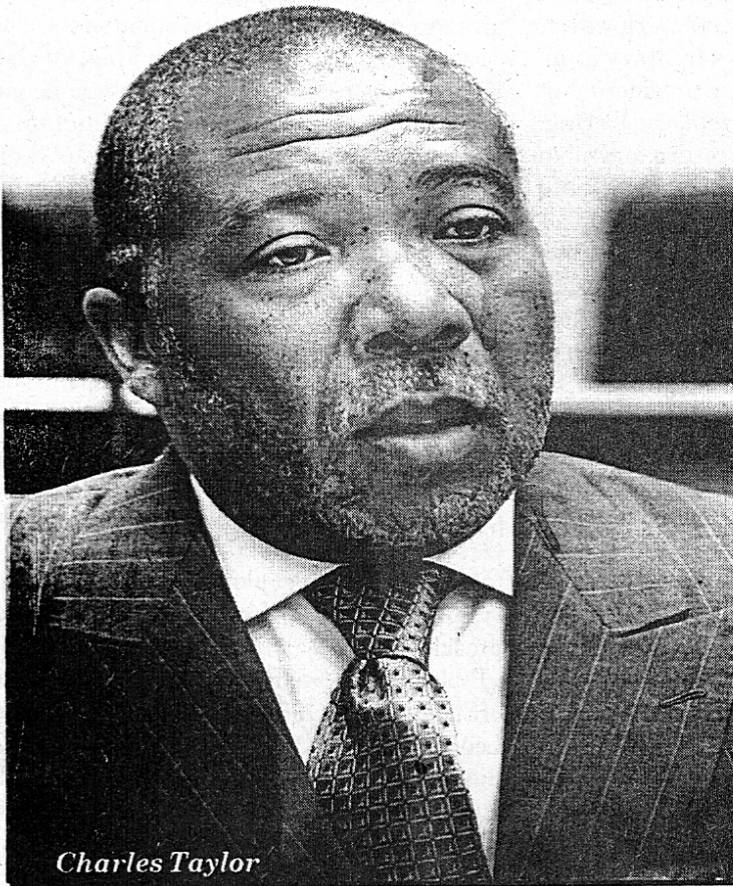
otherwise by the court. So the media should present reports that are devoid of speculations," he warned yesterday in Monrovia while giving his opening address at an international media training programme for 50 journalists from Sierra Leone and Liberia.

He stressed that Taylor's trial is not a child's play and everybody, including the journalists, needs to understand that.

Bropleh therefore charged journalists to understand that whatever stories they write, analyses they make and even opinions they express in the course of discharging their duties, especially when reporting about the ongoing trial, will have great implications on the public.

"The role of journalists is not to opine but to report. So they should always leave their opinions out in their reports and submit to higher ethical standards," he said.

In the end, the minister maintained that the training
Contd. page 4



Charles Taylor

"Charles Taylor is an innocent man"

From page 1
exercise was "an expensive venture but necessary. The task indeed is a challenge."

According to organizers of the programme, Afua Hirsch of the Advocates for International Development and Doughty Street Chambers in the UK and Josephus Gray, a journalist and assistant minister designate for public affairs at Liberia's ministry of foreign affairs, journalists in the two countries have been faced with so many

problems causing their inability to accurately and adequately cover Taylor's trial which has taken its toll on public interest and engagement.

The training scheduled to end on Saturday April 26 is expected to provide basic training on international tribunals and international criminal law in general; focus on the purpose of Taylor's trial and roles of prosecution and defence teams and the rights of the accused to a fair trial.

It would also discuss and address concerns about and objections to the trial including its impact on the current political and justice situation in the two countries; and equip journalists with tools needed to better manage public expectations surrounding the trial.

Charles Taylor's trial is the first case of an African head of state to be tried by an international tribunal as we have the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Hinga Norman Family/Former CDF Join APC!

*By Isaac the Valiant
and
Septimus A M Saffa*

Members of the Late Chief Rtd. Captain Sam Hinga Norman one time Minister of Local Government and Head of the Civil Defence Force under the then SLPP Government who was later incarcerated in prison while facing charges in the Special Court but later died, and former members of the CDF have resolved at a meeting recently held to join the rank and file of the All People's Congress and give their unflinching support to the Government of President Ernest Bai Koroma in every aspect of national development. According to reliable reports, resolutions of their interim executive held a series of closed door meetings and their decision was released following the meeting which was witnessed by the National Secretary General of the APC, Victor B. Foh. The release among

other points stated that the son of Late Sam Hinga Norman, Samuel Hinga Norman Jr. becomes the Head of



Victor B. Foh

their Coordinating Body while Mr. Mohamed Duwai becomes the National Liaison Officer between the former CDF and Central Government in their pursuits for engagement in meaningful activities like agriculture, road construction, skills training, etc; that the government considers pardoning former members, Moininia Fofanah and Alieu Kondowai

who they perceive as being made Sacrificial Lambs by



President Koroma

the former S L P P government that the A P C Government and party support the Hinga Norman Family in setting up the Hinga Norman Foundation for the promotion

of national unity, peace, reconciliation and

former fighters also expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to President Koroma and



Hinga Norman

his Government for supporting functions marking the one year memorial ceremony for Late Rtd. Capt Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Their resolutions were endorsed by Samuel Hinga Norman Jr on behalf of the Hinga Norman family, while the National Liaison Officer of the former CDF, Mohamed Duwai endorsed on behalf of his members. Also Messrs Kamoh Lahai, Victor Gongor Pabai signed on behalf of Pujehun District; Morie Jusu Kamara and Idrissa Dauda signed on behalf of Bonthe and Moyamba Districts respectively.

Representing and saying on behalf of Kenema and Bo Districts were Mohamed Hussein Rogers and Mustapha Kondowai respectively, while Hussain Feikah also countersigned on behalf of the Southern Region. Meanwhile the members of the former CDF and family members of Late Sam Hinga Norman have met with President Koroma and presented their resolutions to him at State House recently. President Koroma reportedly welcomed them for their wise decision and said his Government and the APC are committed to do things devoid of regional, tribal or religious bias, hence he said as able bodied Sierra Leoneans he is prepared to see that this time round their energies and talents are harmonized and utilized in areas of agriculture, road repairs and other useful pursuits for their sustainability cum national development.

[We Yone is the official newspaper of the All People's Congress]

BBC World Service Trust

Thursday, 24 April 2008

By Alphonsus Zeon, at The Hague

ZEON: Sesay said as a protest for leaving out the AFRC from the Lome Peace Agreement and not giving a post to his leader, Johnny Paul Koroma in a power-sharing government, they seized a group of UNAMSIL peacekeepers and observers that travelled in the AFRC-controlled area in response to the rebels' invitation to release some 200 child fighters to the peacekeepers.

SESAY: They just said all of us who were in the bush were combatants. We disagreed. We said we were SLAs, why haven't they mentioned the SLAs? So Bazzy organised, called Bomb Blast and said, well, now it looks like we should plan another operation. So he linked up with Freetown and said, well, he wants to release some child combatants, so let the UNAMSIL who were there at the time, and some group of people, to come and receive these child combatants.

ZEON: He said in the face of the disagreement, after AFRC fighters refused RUF former commander Sam Bockarie's request to release the arrested peacekeepers, Taylor sent for the AFRC High Command in Monrovia to try to mend the troubled relations between the two rebel forces. In Liberia, Sesay said, they first met with their leader, Johnny Paul Koroma in a villa watched over by Taylor's Anti-Terrorist Unit forces.

SESAY: It was Johnny who told us that these were the ATU who were keeping guard over him, the Anti-Terrorist Unit. He said they were special guards from the President.... we went and had a discussion with Johnny Paul Koroma... Bazzy said, "Please, sir, we have been left out of the Lome Accord and even you, you were not given any appointment.... and that's the reason we captured these UNAMSIL people. That is why we have come to you to find out how we would resolve this issue, because we want to be reinstated into the army."... So he told us that since this was the problem... we should select some men who will go and meet President Taylor so that this thing could be worked out.

ZEON: After the Johnny Paul Koroma meeting, they drove to Taylor's Executive Mansion office where they met with the former Liberian President, flanked by his Defence Minister, Daniel Chea.

SESAY: he said he had been giving assistance to the AFRC/RUF that was fighting, so that we could remove the government that was in Freetown... headed by Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. He said that should be our focus to ensure that we were in the seat of power, rather than causing disputes amongst ourselves - with one another... the meeting came to an end. Charles Taylor took 15,000 dollars and gave it to Johnny Paul for it to be given to us the men who came... until we await the arrival of Foday Saybana Sankoh who had left Lome for Ghana and that he was on his way...to Liberia.

ZEON: Prosecution [phrase unclear] is not whether crimes were committed in Sierra Leone, but whether Taylor ordered them, or at least knew of the atrocities and failed to avoid them, because Prosecution alleged Taylor had command over the rebel forces.

When Taylor's lawyer, Morris Anyah, took over questioning the witness, he drew contrast to Sesay's statement that he's an Evangelist of the Gospel, yet the witness refused kissing the Bible, to assure the Court he was obligated to the Almighty to say the truth.

ANYAH: Were you an evangelist back in June/July 2006, Mr Witness?... Please tell us why you did not swear on the Bible here but you swore on the Bible in the RUF trial.

SESAY: So one day I went to my pastor and asked him, I said, "Pastor, is it good for somebody to swear on the Bible?" He said, "No, no, no."

ZEON: Sesay's cross-examination continues. This is Alphonsus Zeon for the BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground, reporting from The Hague.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
24 April 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

(The News, The Analyst, New Democrat, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The Informer)

Police Arrest 18 Armed Robbers - Increase Night Patrols

- The Liberia National Police (LNP) backed by the United Nations Police (UNPOL) have increased the number of night patrols in Monrovia and surrounding communities to combat the upsurge of armed robbery in Monrovia. At the same time, the Director of the LNP, Beatrice Muna Sieh disclosed on Wednesday that 18 armed robbers were arrested and three, out of the 18 died, while the rest have been taken to the Monrovia Central Prison. Although she didn't say where they were arrested and what led to the death of the three, but the Police boss stated that those who are in the police custody would be sent to court shortly upon the completion of their criminal records.

Supreme Court Issues Stay Order

(New Democrat, The Analyst, Daily Observer)

- The Daily Observer reports that Cllr. Pearl Brown-Bull, suspended for time indefinite as commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), yesterday made a dramatic appearance at the ongoing TRC public hearings at Bopolu City Hall. Reports say Commissioner Bull marched into the hall accompanied by a bailiff from the Supreme Court which had placed a halt on her suspension.
- Cllr. Bull was suspended following reports that she had taken assignment with the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) something that breached the TRC Act. The media reported yesterday that the Supreme Court Chamber Justice, Jamesetta Wolokollie issued a writ of prohibition on the suspension of Pearl Brown-Bull as Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). This followed a petition filed by Counsellor Bull challenging her suspension from the TRC for allegedly violating the Commission's act. Meanwhile, the Analyst reports that the Chairman of the TRC, Cllr. Jerome Verdier has said that despite attempts by some individuals to undermine the commission, the people of Liberia remain resolute in their support for the TRC.

Media Group Releases Findings on Media Reach, Penetration Survey

(Heritage, The News, The Inquirer)

- A new study conducted by a local media development agency has revealed that the traditional media in Liberia is barely surviving and would require solid investment to become truly independent. In a report titled "Media Reach and Penetration Study" released yesterday, the Liberia Media Center (LMC) says lack of financial resources and supporting market environment has for the most part left the media market under resourced at times susceptible to outside influence with the potential of undermining its independence and freedom.
- The Inquirer quoting the report said with almost thirty local dailies in Monrovia alone, there are a staggering percentage of newspaper-readers bringing to mind that Liberia still has a high percentage of uninformed people. For its part, the Heritage reports that the media group

findings show that the greater majority of Liberians depend on radio for getting the information vital to them.

- A previous study had suggested the need for international partners to increasingly place importance on media development initiatives aimed at strengthening the sector and ensuring media independence in order to enhance national development in Liberia.

UNIDO Unveil Plans to Construct US\$500,000 Testing Laboratory

(The Heritage)

- The United Nations Industry Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has unveiled plan for the construction of a US\$500,000 chemical and microbiological and pesticide laboratory for the Liberian Government. The laboratory is expected to assist with the testing of export and import commodities and other products in the country. According to UNIDO Consultant responsible for the construction of the lab, Dr. Upali Samarajeewa, the laboratory is expected to be completed in early next year and would be administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Radio Summary

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

Police Nabs 7 Suspected Armed Robbers

- Police in Monrovia have arrested seven suspected armed robbers in connection with two separate robbery incidents in the Perry Street Community and the Old Road suburb outside Monrovia.
- Addressing a news conference yesterday, Police Inspector General, Col. Beatrice Munah Sieh said the robbers were arrested during an operation code name "Operation Thunder Storm".
- Inspector Sieh said some of the suspects have already admitted to committing the crime.
- Meanwhile, Col. Sieh has called for more logistical support to enable the Police fight armed robbery.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Representative Snowe Wants House Speaker out of Bribery Probe

- Speaking during cross examination yesterday in the ongoing House of Representatives bribery probe, former Speaker Edwin Snowe has called for the current Speaker to temporarily quit his position as he is alleged to be linked to the bribery deal.
- The Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Armah Sarnor said although Speaker Tyler was accused of disbursing the bribery fund it has not been verified.
- The Judiciary Committee has meanwhile adjourned the probe pending a full report to the plenary of the House.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Pro-Democracy Group Launches Rural Constitution Outreach Project

- The Centre for Democracy and Elections (CENDE) has launched a rural constitution outreach project and community driven workshop in Tubmanburg, Bomi County with the aim of providing constitutional knowledge to communities to help them make sound decisions.
- According to a release, the project was launched under the theme: "Strengthening constitutional knowledge for sustained participatory democracy, good governance, peace and development in post-war Liberia".
