

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



Jomo Kenyatta Road, looking toward Pademba Road, near the Special Court.

**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, 25 August 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

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Spectator

Friday, 25 August 2006

## PLAIN TALK

# The Police and the Judiciary

Immediately when the publication came out captioned " police blast judiciary for corruption", in 'The Spectator Newspaper, that did not go down well with the police force and the judiciary but deep within their conscience the Police are fully aware that the judiciary is really not helping them in punishing those found guilty of committing various crimes within the Country. Sierra Leoneans, especially the poor who consist the greater percentage of our populations can attest to it that the judiciary is not effectively dispensing justice equally. Most times when you go to any Police Station, Police officers will callously alter those system that "No sooner a criminal is taken to court the next day, you see him walking freely on the street the other day.

**Hundreds** of Police officers can agree with me that their lives have steadily been in danger whenever these criminals are set free. I still remember sometimes last year, when a senior police officer lamented in his speech that after making an arrest and investigated a Nigerian con man of serious crime. It was shocking for him to feel somebody tapping him by the soldier along the beach one evening and no sooner he turned, it was this same guy whom he thought was serving jail sentence.

**He** had to leave the beach immediately. There are several of these cases but they are afraid to speak it out.

As long as we continue to hide the truth from one another it will surely affect this nation and will probably lead to chaos someday.

**The** rebel war was one lesson which this nation needs to learn a lot from but what we continue to repeat the same errors. The people continue to suffer from the same ills of the society. The formation of the justice development sector must work in concert with the judiciary to improve our judicial laws. The judiciary must know that the police are bitter and there is only one way to neutralize that bitterness in them unless the judiciary convict those who are found guilty by the law to be well punished. The Police still see themselves as not welcomed by society because those who are arrested by the police still walk free and continue to cause problem. The Police always feel guilty of not helping to minimize crime and lawlessness in society which is their responsibility. A good number of Sierra Leoneans especially the illiterate continue to blame the police of not doing enough in combating crime in Sierra Leone.

**Sierra Leone** can only be a safe and better place for all when we changed our attitudes, when the judiciary dispense justice free and fairly, then peace can actually reign in SALONE. Peter Tosh, once said that "every one is crying out for peace but non is crying out for justice and at the same time we all want equal rights.

New Citizen  
Friday, 25 August 2006

# LAW REFORM ASSURES PUBLIC

The Law Reform Commission recently issued a press release in which it assured the general public that the Commission is independent and autonomous and always works in the interest of the people of Sierra Leone.

"In reviewing the Laws of Sierra Leone, the Commission takes into consideration not only the opinions of individuals but also government's policies and views," the release also states.

The press release is in response to public's growing concern regarding why is it only now that the Law Reform Commission is embarking on the review of the 1991 Constitution.

The press release also states, "in 2004, the Commission devised a three-year work plan incorporating all requests from public and government for reform of certain areas of the law."

The work plan, the release went on, took into consider-

ation Cabinet's request for the review of certain aspects of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Since the review of the constitution is politically sensitive, the Commission thought it fit to "get the concurrence of His Excellency the President of Sierra Leone, which it did before embarking on the same.

The release also states that the Commission's decision to embark on the said review at the point is timely since the review might result in proposals to amend some entrenched clauses in the constitution.

The release further states that amendments to any entrenched clause in the Constitution have to be put to a referendum to give the voting public the opportunity to approve or reject the amendments.

The release went on, "as a referendum by itself could cost almost as much as a

general election, the Commission is of the view that if the review commences now, it would be completed in time for the next general elections so that any amendments to any entrenched clause in the constitution could be put to a referendum at the same time as the 2007 general elections in order to save costs.

"The Commission would want to reiterate that it works in the interest of the people of Sierra Leone, and in this regard, their views, suggestions and recommendations on the review of the Constitution would be taken and seriously considered.

The release concluded by stating that the Chairman of the Commission would be available to answer any questions relative to the review after the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at phone numbers - 076-669-083 or at his office at 3A Wellington Street in Freetown.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 24 August 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN mission in Liberia records 24 cases of sexual exploitation**

MONROVIA, Aug 23, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The United Nations Mission in Liberia has disclosed here on Wednesday that it has recorded 24 cases of "sexual exploitation" this year. UN special envoy Alan Doss said there were four reports of rape, 16 reports of sexual exploitation and four reports involving sexual abuse of minors. "All cases are under investigation and we encourage the public to report such cases to us," Doss said. But he advised against general allegations and called for specifics and facts.

#### **Liberian relief as first post-war postal services resume**

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Aug 24, 2006 (AFP) - Liberia's post war recovery programme moved another notch Wednesday with the re-opening of post offices shut down by a 14-year civil war that ended three years ago. Most of the infrastructure still remains in ruins following a brutal civil conflict that ended in 2003, but the determination of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's seven-month-old government saw the basic postal services restart albeit under improvised conditions. Following the re-launch of postage stamps on Tuesday, makeshift post offices started operating Wednesday.

#### **UN Vows to Repossess another Troubled Rubber Plantation**

Monrovia, Aug 23, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The United Nations on Wednesday vowed to help the government repossess a second rubber plantation occupied by former fighters to assist Liberia in establishing security and shoring up its economic interests after 14 years of civil war. UN peacekeepers and government security forces last week reclaimed the Guthrie Rubber Plantation in northwest Liberia where about 500 former fighters had lived illegally for three years.

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

**BBC** Last Updated: Thursday, 24 August 2006, 10:53 GMT 11:53 UK

#### **Ivorian poll deadline impossible**

Ivory Coast will not be able to organize elections before the 31 October deadline, the head of the UN peacekeeping mission has said. "Technically it wouldn't be possible... because you haven't finished identification and voter registration," Pierre Schori told Reuters news agency. The elections are supposed to reunite the country which has been divided in two for almost four years. The elections were originally due to take place last year.

### **Government Fulfils Requirements to Lift Sanction on Diamonds**

- In an interview yesterday in Monrovia, Deputy Lands, Mines and Energy Minister for Research and Planning Kpadeh Fayiah hinted that the Government of Liberia has met the conditions of the Kimberley Process to lift the sanction on diamonds, citing the construction of a center for diamond diggers, assessment of the potential to produce diamonds and observation of the control of diamond production, sale and export, as some of the conditions the Government of Liberia has fulfilled.
- Mr. Fayiah said that the Ministry has trained mining inspectors and diamond agents and subsequently assigned them to create awareness on the Kimberley Process among miners in the country.

### **Government and UN to Launch Report on Human Development**

- The Government of Liberia and the UNDP will tomorrow, Friday, launch the 2006 Human Development Report on Liberia, emphasizing the need to speedily develop Liberia by mobilizing resources for such a development. The Government of Liberia and its international partners will present strategies and policies to rebuild the country.

### **UNMIL Reports Increase in Criminal Activities in Liberia**

- Speaking at a news conference yesterday in Monrovia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Alan Doss reported that criminal activities including armed robbery, rape and murder have slightly increased in and around Monrovia but added that troops and civilian police of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in collaboration with the Liberian National Police were conducting joint-patrols in "high crime areas" and that arrests have been made and some dangerous weapons recovered.

### **Police Quiz Court Officers for Tampering with Jurors**

- A credible source at the Criminal Court-C in Monrovia yesterday confided to correspondents that four of the Court's officers were being questioned by police for tampering with the jury who acquitted former National Social Security and Welfare Corporation Director Orishall Gould and others, of economic sabotage.
- Meanwhile, the Corporation's current management told journalists that the jury's verdict would compromise the Government's effort to fight corruption and impunity.

### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Says Some Media Institutions Undermine Journalism**

- Addressing graduates of a Methodist University in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf thought some media institutions were damaging journalism as a noble profession by being agents of character assassination and instruments of blackmail.
- The President said that sensationalism had replaced sensitization while lies and half-truths were preferred to accuracy and truth, adding that good professional ethics have been substituted for check-book journalism and "Kato" [bribe].
- President Johnson-Sirleaf cautioned the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) and other media organizations to firmly protect and enforce a level of professionalism.
- In reaction, PUL Secretary-General Alphonsus Zeon said that President Johnson-Sirleaf's criticism stemmed from her frustration over the media's critical reporting about her Government, asserting that PUL was pleased with the performance of its members and that the President's remarks would not intimidate the media.
- Mr. Zeon threatened a media block-out against the Government if it attempted to censor any media institution.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **UN Probes Cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

- Mr. Alan Doss, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General announced at a news conference yesterday that UN Headquarters in New York was currently investigating 24 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving personnel of UNMIL and assured the public that appropriate actions would be taken against those who would be found guilty by their countries of origin.
- Mr. Doss urged the public to report to UNMIL all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse as the Mission has already trained nearly 2,000 personnel in the area.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **UNMIL Embarks on Regular Patrols in Rubber Plantation in Nimba**

- UNMIL Force Commander Lt. /Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor said that troops have started regular patrols of the Cocopa Rubber Plantation in Nimba County to curb rising tension and identify the source of single barrel guns being used by individuals to cause unrest there.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

IRIN

Thursday, 24 August 2006

## COTE D IVOIRE: UN says elections likely to be postponed



ABIDJAN, 24 Aug 2006 (IRIN) - Presidential elections that have already been delayed for one year will likely be postponed again in Cote d'Ivoire and political leaders in the conflict appear to lack the will to resolve it, according to the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the war-divided country.

"There is a lot of work being done, preparations being done, but the timetable set down, it is now not realistic," UN mission chief Pierre Schori told Reuters news agency in an interview on Wednesday in Cote d'Ivoire's main city, Abidjan.

Cote d'Ivoire has been divided since a September 2002 coup failed to topple President Laurent Gbagbo. Some 10,000 UN and French peacekeepers monitor a buffer zone between the rebel-occupied north and government-held south. The conflict has displaced 750,000 people and three million receive humanitarian assistance.

No new date for the presidential and legislative elections has been set. Changes to the election timetable will be addressed at the UN General Assembly meeting in mid-September, UN spokeswoman Margherita Amodeo told IRIN.

"They will look at how things are and how to move things forward," she said.

Western diplomats say the presidential and legislative polls should be postponed by at least six months.

Elections were delayed in October 2005 under a UN-backed peace plan that extended Gbagbo's mandate by up to twelve months. A new prime minister, Charles Konan Banny, was charged with overseeing disarmament and a programme to provide an estimated 3.5 million people with proof of identity ahead of the elections, which are seen as crucial to peace.

Determining who is Ivorian is a key step in the implementation of the peace plan. Officials stopped the identification scheme in most towns in the south after violent protests by Gbagbo supporters. They fear that immigrants will try to obtain Ivorian nationality and the right to vote, thus tilting the balance against Gbagbo in elections.

Disarmament has also suffered delays. The effort to disarm pro-government militia in the south was suspended earlier this month because too few weapons were handed in, and the rebels holding the north refuse to relinquish their weapons.

"There is a lack of political goodwill, but that can still change," Schori said on Ivorian state television on Wednesday.

Gbagbo has already said that he will remain in office until the elections are held. The New Forces rebel movement and the opposition, however, say they will not accept another extension of his mandate.

But New Forces spokesman Sidiki Konate said it was too early to rule out the October elections.

"We'll see in October whether it's possible or not. For now, we would like to hear who is



responsible for the delay and what will be done to accelerate the peace process," Konate told IRIN.

The Ivorian government had no immediate response to Schori's comments.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny this week launched peace missions comprised of members of civil society and political parties to travel throughout the country to explain plans to end Cote d'Ivoire's crisis.