

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



Satellite view of 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:

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

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

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

Taylor's lawyer reacts to Kofi Annan's comments

Karim Ahmed Khan, defense lawyer for war crimes indictee and detainee Charles Taylor, has raised concerns on comments made by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Kofi Annan, while addressing staff of the Special Court during his 2-3 July visit to Sierra Leone.

During the first status conference held in The Hague, Lawyer Khan stated that the statements which came from the "leader, the head civil servant of a United Nations supposedly intend on ensuring and establishing the rule of law, not only in Africa but everywhere in the world" were unfortunate. He added that these sorts of statements had the

tendencies to give a sense of unfairness.

Mr. Kofi Annan, during his visit to Freetown, had reportedly said the court was putting on trial criminals who had done lots of damages to the country [Sierra Leone]. He reportedly went on that, "criminals have terrorized the population, destroyed the economy and the social fabric of this country that we are trying to put together. It is also important that it was this court that indicted Charles Taylor, who was a powerful warlord in the region and former Head of State."

Taylor's lawyer noted that these type of comments coming from the most senior member of the UN created a chilling effect not only on the investigation of the defense to

gain cooperation from witnesses but the willingness for witnesses to testify for an individual who had already been hung and drawn .

The lawyer further submitted that such a statement coming from the Secretary General would send signal to members of staff, some of who might have had experienced and might be immuned to protestations by these statements.

Mr. Khan urged the judges not to distance themselves from those statements in the clearest way. "I would like you and the others to dissociate and depart from those comments of the Secretary- General as being most unfortunate and downright unacceptable."

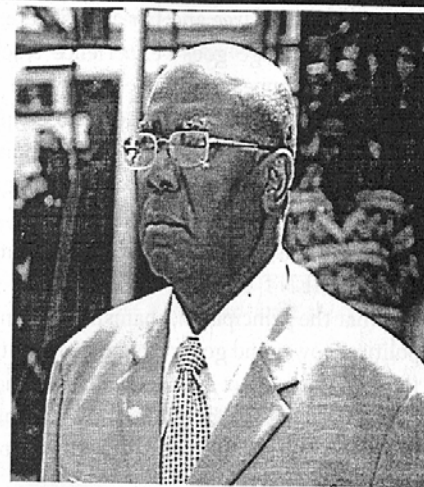
Standard Times
Tuesday, 25 July 2006

As Norman appeals Kabbah's subpoena decision...

ECOMOG Commander to



Norman... suffering



Kabbah... time will tell

testify in Norman's trial

Counsels for Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Mr. Moinina Fofona have filed an appeal with the Appeal Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the recent decision by the trial chamber. The chamber in a two to one ma-

ajority decision ruled on 13th June 2006 that President Kabbah can't be forced to testify as a witness for the defense as requested in the motion for subpoena and testificandum submitted by Mr. Norman and Mr.

Fofanah through their counsels.

On 28th June 2006, the trial chamber in a unanimous decision granted the defense leave to take the matter to the Appeals Chamber. The trial chamber presided over by the chamber's lone Sierra

Leonean, Justice Bankole Thompson, ruled among other things that "The novel nature of the issue and the likelihood that it will be raised again in the case and other cases before the court together with the diverse legal perspectives from

which it can be viewed, it would be in the interest of Justice to have this matter determined by the Appeals Chamber" The Chamber also appears to have been conscious of the fact that it may have

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erred in the decision not to issue the subpoena and added " If the Chamber wrongly determined the novel question before the Special Court, it may have unduly impinged upon the right of the First and Second accused.."

From a lay person's perspective it appears that the court was not at all sure about the legality of its own ruling. As a result, the Chamber put out not one opinion, but three separate opinions on the matter. The majority opinion, the separate but concurring opinion by Cameroonian Jurist, Mutanga Itoe, and a separate and desenting opinion by Justice Bankole Thompson. In his opinion Thompson states " There is nothing problematic about statutory powers to issue a Subpoena, nationally or internationally" He admonished his colleagues " To ensure that no relevant evidence vital to the discovery of the truth is foreclosed by reason of legal technicalities, novel artificial judicial conceptual distinctions or outmoded judicial doctrines not contemplated by the plain and ordinary meaning of the applicable statutory provision and rules".

It would be recalled that the request for a subpoena and the basis of the subsequent appeal is that Mr. Kabbah is in possession of relevant exculpatory material which could not be obtained elsewhere should Kabbah not appear as a defense witness.

The main argument of the Attorney General, as legal Counsel for President Kabbah, it would be recalled was that section 48(4) of the Sierra Leone Constitution grants the president immunity from all legal procedures. Councils for the detained Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Moina Fofanah argued on legal ground which Justice Thompson agreed that being a witness does not by itself constitute a legal procedure as intended by Section 48(4). In any case, the statutes of the court does not grant immunity to Heads of States by virtue of their position or office. Section 48(4) of the Constitution states, according to Counsel for Norman, Dr. Bubuakei Jabbie, only applies to legal procedures in Sierra Leone National courts where President Kabbah is exempted.

The intent of Section 48(4), it is observed is to prevent the judiciary from trampling over the Executive Branch in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers. But this doctrine counsel argued is will not applicable to an international tribunal. "Indeed President Kabbah himself had argued strongly that with respect to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, there are no sacred cows" he recalled.

The trial will resume on 13 Sep-

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tember with or without President Kabbah appearing as witness.

Apart from President Kabbah, Special Court sources close to Sam Hinga Norman opined that there are two more witnesses he may have to call upon, namely Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr. J.A. Carpenter and former ECOMOG Chief of Staff, General

Abdul Mohamed. Mr. Carpenter is expected to testify with regards to parliamentary procedures authorizing the establishment and Funding of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) at the request of President Kabbah. Though it would appear that the court had put a stumbling block before Carpenter's appearance based purely on procedural

grounds. Norman has also taken that to the Appeals Chamber. General Mohamed who is residing in Nigeria has indicated his willingness to appear as a witness but was hampered by medical reasons from appearing before the end of the June session of the trial.

If the Appeals Chamber ap-

proves Mr. Norman's appeals for President Kabbah subpoena and Mr. Carpenter's appearance, and if General Mohamed is able to travel to Freetown in September, the trial will likely come to an end. The ECOMOG Commander is expected to testify with regards the alleged transactions between the West African Military Command and President Kabbah.

New Citizen
Tuesday, 25 July 2006

SEARCHLIGHT

With Wysemann Dee
076-633-807



DOWNBELOW: SIR ALBERT CONVERSES WITH MARAH & TEACHER LAGAWO—EPISODE 8 / PART 5

Again, Sir Albert questioned, "but I was made to understand that SAJ Musa was studying in England while Foday Sankoh was in prison in Nigeria, is that not so Richard?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "yes Sir Albert, so you have now arrived at the point we were trying to drive at."

Sir Albert questioned, "what point?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "it was due to the fact that SAJ Musa and Foday Sankoh were not in the country that caused the coup plotters to search for a leader."

Once more, Sir Albert asked, "so what did the coup plotters do?"

Teacher Lagawo answered, "Johnny Paul Koroma was left as the only choice available to the coup plotters."



SAJ Musa

Sir Albert inquired, "gentlemen, you have really not answered my question. How did Johnny Paul Koroma come to head a group of

coup plotters when in actual fact he was in jail standing trial for treason?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "oh my good God! On the morning of May 25th 1997, when the AFRC/RUF forces invaded Freetown, the maximum prison at Pademba Road was broken and all the prisoners set free. These hoodlums included hardcore criminals and murderers like Abayomi 'Highway'



Foday Sankoh Alhadi, Alhaji Tokowa and others."

Sir Albert again asked, "all right gentlemen, when the rebels and the soldiers break open the prison and in the process set the prisoners free, was Johnny Paul Koroma among the prisoners set free?"

Teacher Lagawo and Marah replied in unison, "you are quite correct, Sir Albert."

Sir Albert stressed, "now gentlemen, please explain to me how Johnny Paul Koroma was appointed leader of the coup plotters?"



Johnny Paul

Teacher Lagawo responded, "most of the coup plotters, seventeen of them to be precise, were footballers who played for the military football team." Sir Albert interrupted, "that has not answered the question."

Marah said, "well, the rebels invited Johnny Paul Koroma at the military headquarters at Cockeril where he was informed of the impending plan to appoint him Head of State and Chairman of the AFRC junta."

Sir Albert observed, "gentlemen, I think the decision to appoint Johnny Paul Koroma leader of the junta government was due to the fact that he was already known as a coup plotter. On the other hand, I am not sure whether he expected that he would be set free from prison to be catapulted to the position of Head of State as his mind was firmly fixed to the day when he will face the hang man's rope."

See next issue

Independent Observer

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

A Case for War Crimes Tribunal

By Solomon Vincent

The phone rang at 4:00 am on this fateful morning. The piercing sound of the ringer in the tranquillity of the night was enough to jar me awake. Hello? I gruffed.. It was my sister, Willetta. This had to be important. Whenever my family and relatives called, I would slyly hint that a good time to get me would be 12:00 pm Monrovia time.

We exchanged some banter and she said that Mom was with her. This was 1996 before the advent of cell phones and wireless technology. Liberia was always at War. Mom lived in Paynesville and had traveled to the city to be able to make that call. I was excited with anticipation. My Mom got on the phone. She was audibly shaken trying to compose herself. She said, "they kill Mo". I stupidly asked, who Mo? She said lil Mo, my son. She meant a young man named Moses Varney. In the dawn of the morning, tears welled up in my eyes. I was more confused than grief-stricken. We talked for a while and they somehow sidestepped the issue of how he died. I would learn later from someone else the story of his death. Lil Mo grew up and became one of the members in the army of the INPFL. Mo was from the Mano tribe. He was from the same Nimba County as Prince Johnson, one of Mr. Johnson's kinsmen.

A handsome young kid with "open-teeth", Mo was a very happy kid naturally. He was always smiling. We had grown up together in Paynesville. My Mom raised Mo from when he was 3. We slept in the same space, did the chores, planted the garden, went fishing and climbed the mango plum trees during the vacation to make money.

Mo was in the army of Prince Johnson. I was told that he was one of the important people in the Prince Johnson INPLF faction. During the heat of the war, my

***I have a special
admiration for
the people of
Liberia that lived
and survived
the War***

Mom had more than 200 people living at her place on Duport Road. Through fate, Mo would go back to the home where he grew up. He fed and protected all the people on the property till he was killed by Prince Johnson.

The issue here is not he died or was killed. It is how or why he was killed. Prince Johnson ordered his men to burst the head of Mo and another individual with two fifty pound hammers. After they were killed, their bodies were dumped off the bridge into the water somewhere on Bushrod Island. It seems that Prince Johnson believed that Mo could not be killed by a gun or a knife. So, Mr. Johnson chose one of the most heinous ways to slaughter another human being.

After I hung up with My Mom and sister, I sat there in the stillness of the morning; thinking and reminiscing of our childhood together. He had attended Paynesville School across from "Joe bar" at the time. It was amazing how this kid knew the terrain of the "old-field". He could take you to all the good fishing holes or where he thought the best growth of mango trees would be for that year.

This was her second son to be killed. Her oldest natural born son, Warrant Officer John Nyema Orea had

been killed during the Quowonkpa uprising in 1985. 'Nyema' was a 1967 graduate of the US Army Schools at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, USA. His specialty had been Long Range Artillery and Welding. Orea had been found dead on South Beach with acid thrown in his face and his heart cut out. Mom had to identify him by his birthmark. I suddenly could physically feel her pain and grief.

I was suddenly taken to an era in my younger days. Orea had joined the army at 15. Rumor was that Mom had made him join the Army, least he become one of "those grona boys". I used to sit there and watch him polish his buttons for his Army fete with Braso till they shone. And, polishing his boots was almost a ritual in itself. His finishing task was a round gold sort of badge that the guys wore on their pockets. It read "US Army Schools". Years earlier, before he came to Maryland, I would always be animated to see Orea and "Bill Ray" (sp) and the rest of the Army guys that drove those big

Army trucks.

I have a special admiration for the people of Liberia that lived and survived the War. The particular wickedness exhibited in Liberia was as if the jaws of Hell itself had opened and envelope this sacred homeland with grief, death, destruction and misery. If there is no compelling reason for a War Crimes Tribunal, the two I just mentioned would suffice, and that their deaths may not have been in vain.

In the hollow silence of the dawn, I remembered the Russian Ambassador presenting his Letters of Credence to President Tolbert. The Ambassador said "my country would assist any where in the world where people were fighting for independence, freedom and dignity, etc". I can almost still here the words of President Tolbert resonate when he said, The Greatest War going on in Liberia is the War against Ignorance, Poverty and Disease. "Liberia would welcome any assistance

New Vision

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

Iraq trial resumes without Saddam

The trial of Saddam Hussein has resumed in Baghdad without the former Iraqi leader who is ill in hospital.

Saddam Hussein was taken to hospital on Sunday as a result of a hunger strike, which he reportedly began on 7 July in protest at the murder of his lawyer. Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi has said the 68-year-old ousted leader is being fed through a tube.

He and seven co-defendants are on trial charged with crimes against humanity. They all deny the charges. In court, the lawyers acting for co-defendants Taha Yassin Ramadan and Awad Hamad al-Bandar were due to begin their final summations, followed by those acting for Saddam Hussein and his half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti.

Lawyers for the four other defendants have already presented their summations.

'Stable condition' Once the final statements have been made the trial will be suspended while the five-judge panel considers its verdict, which is



expected by mid-August. Court spokesman Raed Juhi said Saddam Hussein's condition was stable. Saddam Hussein and three co-defendants are believed to have begun their latest hunger strike more than two weeks ago.

They are protesting against procedures at the tribunal, and also demanding better security for defence lawyers. Three members of the defence team have been murdered during the course of the trial - most recently senior lawyer Khamis al-Obeidi, shot dead in June. The prosecution has called for the execution of the former president and two **others** for the deaths of 148 villagers during a crackdown in the village of Dujail after an assassination attempt in 1982.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Monday, 24 July 2006

Taylor Unhappy With Prison Conditions

"Charles Taylor is not happy about conditions in the Hague jail he was moved to last month, his lawyer said on Friday, as the former Liberian president appeared in court for the first time since he left Sierra Leone," a July 21 Reuters dispatch quoted Taylor's attorneys as saying.

Defence lawyer Karim Khan told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which will hear the war-crimes case against Taylor, that his client could not make phone calls as freely as he could in Freetown, lockdown hours were more draconian, and he was unhappy about the food.

Taylor, wearing a grey suit and tie to the procedural hearing, also asked the court through his lawyer to speed visas for his family to visit him in The Hague. Taylor's wife is six months pregnant.

The Sierra Leone special court had asked to move Taylor to The Hague and use the premises of the International Criminal Court because of fears a trial in Freetown could spur unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia.

During the appearance, the first since the Special UN-back Sierra Leonean Court moved part of its hearing to The Hague for security reasons, Mr. Taylor again pleaded not guilty to the 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the conflict in Sierra Leone where diamonds were used to purchase arms.

Taylor once again shock observers and according to one observer, beat their imagination, when told the court through his attorneys that he was unlikely to be ready for trial before July 2007.

Many had though Taylor would be pushing for speedy trial but with his attorneys indicating his unpreparedness to face trial, they say much needed to be revealed about what was going on at The Hague.

Some said Taylor's reported abrupt lack of interest in the trial even after four months in detention in Freetown and at The Hague was an attempt to buy time and eventually freedom when the Special Court, which is said to be losing much international attention and suffering donor apathy, finally runs out of funds and the ability to continue hearings.

But observers say the apparent stalling for time would hold only if Taylor has the right to say when and when not the court should hold hearings.

"Being the sole indictee, he does not have that authority; no prisoner has such powers," said one human rights lawyer.

But if he does not have the power and his lawyers know it, then the stalling must border on something other than law or may not be a stalling after all, noted one observer.

"But what would that something be?" is the question followers of the Taylor trial are asking.

Xinhua

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

Liberian gov't denies involvement in Taylor's travails

The Liberian government on Monday denied any involvement in the travails of former Liberian President Charles Taylor who is facing war crimes charges at the International War Crimes Tribunal on Sierra-Leone, now sitting at The Hague.

Richmond Anderson, Liberian Deputy Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, on Monday told newsmen in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria, that Taylor was arraigned at the tribunal following complaints by the Sierra-Leonean government.

"The crimes allegedly committed by Taylor were committed against the people of Sierra Leone and their government. The government of Liberia has nothing to do with these crimes and it is not in any way involved in his prosecution at the International War Crimes Tribunal," Anderson said.

Anderson said the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was set up last month by Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for Liberians to make their complaints about the 14-year war, which the country was made to go through.

"We have agitation for the establishment of a War Crimes Tribunal, but government does not want to bite more than it can chew at the moment," he added.

Anderson said the war massively displaced many Liberians and damaged the international image of Liberians.

He lauded the international community for assisting the country's ongoing efforts at national rebirth and restoration by the government of Liberia.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Monday 24 July 2006.

Sierra Leone and Cambodia

"The Sierra Leone special court will at least provide the testimonies of victims and perpetrators, showing how a country can implode. It will really be of value only if we, the international community, take note next time we see the warning smoke."

By Aminatta Forna

A symbolic event took place in Phnom Penh yesterday. Seventeen Cambodian and 13 international judges were sworn in as part of a UN-backed tribunal to try members of the Khmer Rouge responsible for the deaths of up to 1.7 million people in the 1970s.

I was a teenager when images of the killing fields were first shown. I remember the chilling resonance of the phrase, the Year Zero; the hundreds of thousands force-marched out of the cities. I remember too that it was the first time I became aware that such terrible deeds were taking place in my lifetime. At my school we all asked our teachers the same question: why didn't anybody do anything? Now, 30 years on, having watched my own country, Sierra Leone, go through a civil war, I know the answer: because nobody ever does until it is too late. True, in Sierra Leone's case Britain did finally, and to some effect, send a unit of soldiers in 2000, but by then thousands were dead and thousands more maimed.



Four years later, amid much fanfare, the international community created a special court for Sierra Leone, to try those perpetrators of the civil conflict. But within a short time, the Special Court found itself the target of a stream of criticism. Though it had been established to try those "who bear most responsibility" for the violence, the men indicted by the court were clearly no more than second-tier lieutenants. Foday Sankoh, the leader of the rebels, was dead; Charles Taylor, until then still president of the neighbouring state of Liberia, cut a deal with Nigeria and went to live in opulent asylum there. Other key leaders were executed, allegedly by Taylor. Without them, the trial of the 11 indicted men felt hollow and pointless.

Secondly, the court was mandated only to try violations that occurred after November 1996. Not far back enough, in the minds of many local people, who felt that the true perpetrators were the leaders of the corrupt regimes of the 1970s. Similarly, the Cambodian court will only apply to crimes committed after 1975 and before 1979, leaving those - including, some say, the United States' Henry Kissinger - who created the climate which allowed the Khmer Rouge to flourish entirely unaccountable. The choice of which former members of the Khmer Rouge to try may be decided simply on the basis of who is still alive to be tried, and human rights groups are already warning against placing all the blame on a select few perpetrators.

Even those in Sierra Leone who supported the special court's aims balked at the amount being spent - \$32m (£17m). This is a country with virtually no healthcare, proper sanitation, running water or electricity. The published salaries of special court staff included per diems of over \$100,

and the sight of employees at play in the smart hotels and restaurants of the capital did little to win the hearts and minds of average Sierra Leoneans. The Cambodian tribunal is already set to spend \$56m, in a country where 4.5 million people live on less than a dollar a day and malnutrition afflicts over a third of the population.

If international justice is to do more than allay western guilt over its own inertia in the face of the murder of millions of people, it must be accompanied by genuine undertakings not to allow such atrocities again. The Sierra Leone special court will at least provide the testimonies of victims and perpetrators, showing how a country can implode. It will really be of value only if we, the international community, take note next time we see the warning smoke.

Last time I was in Sierra Leone, in March, a friend telephoned to say Charles Taylor - who had finally been extradited from Nigeria as a result of the efforts for Liberia's charismatic new president, Ellen Johnson- Sirleaf - was rumoured to be flying in that day. He suggested I stay off the streets. Of course, I did nothing of the sort. I drove down to the special court to see what was going on. Later that evening crowds gathered to watch Taylor being brought in. By then I was at a party on the terraces of the British High Commission and watched the three helicopters fly in overhead. It was a dramatic moment. The special court had got its man. For me, it was worth it, after all.

But for the people of Cambodia there can be no such moment of victory. Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, died peacefully in 1998, unrepentant to the end.

Associated Press

Monday 24 July 2006

Liberia begins training post-war army

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia -- Liberia on Monday began training the first soldiers of a post-war army that officials hope will grow into a small but effective force to take over peacekeeping from U.N. troops in the war-ravaged West African nation.

Liberia's former army, which stood 14,000-strong in a country of less than 3 million people, became heavily factionalized during the country's 1989-2003 war with soldiers fighting for the various armed groups. The army disintegrated after Charles Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war with his rebel invasion, fled the country for exile in Nigeria in 2003.

Some 100,000 rebels and former government troops were demobilized under a U.N.-backed disarmament campaign when the civil war ended. About 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops are currently deployed in the country.

Liberia elected the first-ever African female president last year and aims to raise an army of 2,000 soldiers in two years' time, 40 percent of them women.

More than 100 recruits assembled Monday for a lecture on military discipline in Monrovia's refurbished training center. They were required to have at least a high school diploma. The former military included many who were uneducated and illiterate.

Young Liberians, many former soldiers and rebels, stood in long lines overnight for a chance to enlist in January.

"We are expecting to see an army that will be prepared to defend Liberia against external invasion and also represent Liberia in peacekeeping operations like the one we are doing here," said Nigerian General Luka Nyeh Yusuf, a former commander in the U.N. peacekeeping force who is overseeing the training of the new military.

"Their morale is high, and I have no doubt that it will not only be high but will be maintained," Yusuf said of the recruits.

The U.S. government is partially funding the army of the country established by former American slaves, and has hired Texas-based DynCorp International Inc. to conduct the training.

The U.N. is also training a 3,500-strong police force for the diamond-rich country, at a cost of \$8.5 million.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Monday 25 July 2006

War Court Forum Identifies Civil War Imposers

Several individuals, institutions and governments in West Africa and beyond have been identified in Monrovia as principle suspects that would face the ensuing Monrovia based war crimes court for their alleged involvement in arms trafficking, military and logistical supports to belligerent warring factions that reigned terror during the Liberia civil crisis.

According to a dossier released last Saturday by the forum for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia, the then Guinean Defense Ministry Administrator and its Chief of Staff General Mamadou Balilo Diallo and the then Defense Minister of Burkina Faso Albert Millogo are alleged to have played major parts in fueling the 15-year crisis.

Other suspected supporters of the crisis have identified include the Guinean Director of Katex Mines, Mr. Aadj Fouzi and the then manager of Weasua Airline in Liberia among others.

The group, backed by some local and foreign human rights entities, further named Leonid Minin, an Israeli businessman of Ukrainian origin; Talal el-Ndine, Charles Taylor's illicit arms dealing pay master; and convict Gus Van Konwenhoven, as people who pillaged Liberia resources.

They also named Simon Roseblum, an Israeli businessman based in Abidjan who they say was allegedly in charge of ex-president Taylor's reported arms shipment in trucks from Liberia to Sierra Leone. Also named is Mr. Charles Taylor Jr., an American citizen, who was allegedly responsible for reported torture, death and mutilation of people in Liberia.

The forum further averred that it is preparing legal documents to request the extradition of Mr. Charles Taylor Jr., alias "Chukie," from America to Liberia so as to face his alleged numerous victims of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law.

A 14 page dossier of purported evidences signed by the forum's Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu Jr., Secretary General M. Boakai Jaleiba Jr., Chief Spokesman Abel Saye Voker and national coordinator Sampson Tweh, emphasized the need for people and institutions identified to be arraigned at a special court for alleged war crimes committed.

Others who signed the document include chairman Reekie Doe of the New Vision of Liberia Inc, and Chairman Prince Kreplay of the Citizens United to Promote Peace and democracy in Liberia.

According to them, these revelations have re-enforced their plan to hold a 3-day hunger strike at the Capitol Building as a means of pressurizing the government, especially the National Legislature to deliberate the forum's petition already submitted calling for the establishment of a special war crimes court in Liberia.

They maintained that their planned hunger strike will go ahead as planned beginning from this week Friday, 21 and end on Sunday 23 July 2006 before the Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in Monrovia.

They noted that the extent to which those named individuals, entities and governments took parts in the destruction of Liberia, the pillaging of the resources through illicit arms deals, military and logistical supports provided the various rebel groups, contradict United Nations protocols therefore calls for the court here.

Efforts are being made to get comments from the accused.

UN Security Council

Monday, 24 July 2006

Security Council reiterates commitment to address impact of armed conflict on children, determination to implement landmark 2005 resolution 1612 Presidential Statement Welcomes Progress in Monitoring, Reporting Mechanism; Special Representative, UNICEF Head, 38 Others Address Issue in Day-Long Debate

The Security Council reiterated today its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children, as it held an open debate on issue.

In a statement read out by Jean-Marc de La Sablière (France), its President for July, the Council also reiterated its determination to ensure respect for its resolution 1612 (2005) and all previous texts on children and armed conflict, which provided a comprehensive framework within which to address the protection of conflict-affected children.

The Council underscored the importance of a sustained investment in development, especially in health, education and skills training, to secure the successful reintegration of children into their communities and prevent re-recruitment. The specific situation of girls exploited by armed forces and groups must be recognized and adequately addressed.

Also by that statement, the Council welcomed the appointment of Radhika Coomaraswamy as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. It also welcomed the fact that its working group on children and armed conflict had achieved commendable progress in its implementation phase, and was now discussing specific reports on parties in situations of armed conflict.

The Council welcomed the ongoing implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, and looked forward to receiving the forthcoming independent review of that mechanism. Acknowledging that the application of the mechanism had already produced results in the field, the Council welcomed the efforts by national governments, relevant United Nations actors and civil society partners to make it operational.

Speaking in his national capacity, Mr. de La Sablière, said it was impossible not to think of the children in Lebanon, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, innocent victims in a conflict that had nothing to do with them. He was also thinking beyond the Middle East, concerned for the well-being of the more than 300,000 children actually taking part in armed conflicts around the world. Nearly half the children trapped in armed conflict were girls, often single mothers, who even when conflicts ended and children were “liberated”, often lived on the margins of society. Without effective reintegration, they were potential factors in the resurgence of crises.

Noting the arrest of Thomas Lubanga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and his transfer to the International Criminal Court, he said that impunity was shrinking for those who perpetrated crimes against children. The Council was following the matter in detail in its working group set up under resolution 1612. At its most recent meeting, that group, headed by France, had examined in detail the situation of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and would examine other situations and submit its assessments and recommendations to the Council, which must be ready to use the full arsenal of available measures to punish those who defied its authority by refusing to comply with relevant resolutions. The international community must work more on the link between security and

development, since the absence of a future for children undermined prevention and demobilization efforts.

Addressing the Council earlier, Ms. Coomaraswamy said resolution 1612 demonstrated that the Council was committed to going beyond words to specific actions in endorsing a monitoring and reporting mechanism. Through the resolution, the Council also expressed its intention to combat impunity through possible targeted measures against repeat violations of children's rights. However, despite the groundswell of support for the resolution and the monitoring reporting exercise, and the fact that the situation of children in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had improved markedly, children continued to suffer. More than 250,000 of them continuing to be exploited as child soldiers by armed forces and groups around the world. Tens of thousands of girls were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. Abduction of children was becoming more systematic and widespread. Since 2003, more than 14 million had been forcibly displaced within and outside their home countries, and between 8,000 and 10,000 had been killed or maimed each year by landmines.

Recounting the story of "Abou" from Sierra Leone, she said he had been abducted by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) from his school at the age of 11. Four years later, he had become a killer and a feared RUF commander, one of its youngest. Demobilized by the United Nations at 15, he had received amnesty for atrocities and, although his community had accepted him back, many were still afraid of him and he was quite isolated. Abou had disappeared six months after being reunited with his family. Haunted by "bad spirits" in his community, he had been among children disarmed and demobilized three years later in Côte d'Ivoire, where he had been recruited to fight for the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). He had told United Nations staff in an interview that he had left because fighting was the only thing he could do well, but Sierra Leone was now at peace.

She said the story illustrated a terrible tragedy: the trauma of children and the communities that they had been forced to brutalize; the tremendous challenges to successful healing and reintegration of children in the aftermath of conflict; and the recycling of children into conflicts that shifted across borders.

Also addressing the Council, Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that, despite the Security Council's active involvement in the issue over the years, particularly its establishment of an effective monitoring and reporting system that would help understand the extent and severity of violations against children, there was still much work to be done. Indeed, the killing and maiming of children, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence, child recruitment and denial of humanitarian access — the six categories of children's rights violations covered by Council resolution 1612 — continued to be characteristic of many present-day conflicts. UNICEF, with its partners, had begun to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism. Baseline situational assessments were being finalized to help refine monitoring and reporting systems at the national level. Technical support and guidance had been provided through country visits to Nepal, Burundi, Somalia and Côte d'Ivoire.

Another devastating consequence of today's wars was sexual violence, which represented a significant threat to children, particularly girls, she said. More than 40 per cent of reported sexual assaults were perpetrated against girls under the age of 15. Violence against women could often be used as a war strategy and, overall, sexual violence was often associated with an increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS. On the spread of small arms and light weapons, the Council should encourage respect for arms embargoes, including the criminalization and punishment of violators. The safety and security of those entrusted with implementing the Council's relevant mechanisms must be ensured and under no

circumstances should United Nations staff and the Organization's humanitarian partners be targeted while carrying out their roles in monitoring and response.

Marie-Madeleine Kalala, Minister for Human Rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said her country's Government had implemented national legislation, as well as several international legal instruments with respect to protecting children. The Democratic Republic of the Congo ranked third among African countries in the establishment of a national action plan in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration adopted by the 1993 Vienna World Conference.

She said her Government had spared no effort with regard to protecting children. In 1999, despite the prevailing state of war, it had organized, together with non-governmental organizations, a vast forum in Kinshasa on the demobilization of child soldiers, which had drawn experts from many African, European, Asian and American countries. That campaign had provided new impetus to the perception of the phenomenon of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

However, the country faced a number of constraints, particularly those involving the location of the children's families, she said. There were also continuing tensions in some parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A solution must be found urgently. UNDP's overall financing for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration was \$200 million, of which only \$5 million was committed to children associated with armed forces and armed groups. Today, 14,000 children were still to be demobilized, while the funds for that task had been totally exhausted.

Others who addressed the Council included Ad Melkert, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Ian Bannon, Acting Director of the World Bank's Sustainable Development Network.

Also taking part in the debate were the Secretary of State in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (on behalf of the European Union), and the Director-General, International Law and Consular Affairs Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia.

Also speaking were the representatives of United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom, Argentina, Peru, Ghana, Japan, China, United States, Greece, Qatar, Russian Federation, Denmark, Congo, Canada, Sri Lanka, Uganda, San Marino, Slovenia (on behalf of the Human Security Network), Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil, Myanmar, Liberia, Egypt, Colombia, Benin and Israel.

The Observer for Palestine also participated in the debate, as did a representative of the non-governmental organization Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict.

Beginning at 10:12 a.m., the meeting was suspended at 1:15 p.m. It resumed at 2:40 p.m. and adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Integrated Regional Information Networks

Friday, 21 July 2006

International Justice: Developments in the Last 15 Years

United Nations



The International Criminal Court in The Hague is a symbol of justice throughout the world. (Photo: Juan Vrijdag / AFP-Getty Images)

According to a study conducted by the University of Hawaii, genocide and state-sponsored killing were responsible for the deaths of more than 170 million people who were murdered by their own governments during the 20th century.

Until recently, such flagrant abuse of human rights garnered no more than the occasional tutting of the international community. However, since the end of the Cold War, attitudes to gross human rights abuses have changed at the international level. The international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda spearheaded a move toward accountability for those most responsible for state-sponsored killing; a move which has been followed by the introduction of the International Criminal Court (I.C.C.).

Against this background, transitions from one system of governance to another, whether after war or after regime change, now tend to include investigations into abuses that occurred, and increasingly some form of judicial process. The motive for such processes is to bring accountability and to help a society address its violent past and move forward.

Yet judicial measures are not always palliative and they can even stir up resentment among the people in whose name justice is being sought. Those imposing justice are often keen to avoid the victor's justice tag, but as can be seen from the processes in Iraq, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslav republics, there are inherent difficulties in achieving justice in transitional situations.

So, can any form of judicial process, imposed by the victorious side, avoid the allegation of victor's justice? Should the terms be dictated by those who are directly affected, or is that the role of a competent international body, if there is one? And have recent advances in

international criminal law gone any way to increasing the possibilities of justice in such situations?

Justice for the Iraqi People, by the Iraqi People

Saddam Hussein is currently being tried in Iraq before the Iraqi Special Tribunal (I.S.T.) for his role in the events which took place in Dujail in 1982 where 143 people were killed.

On the face of it, the I.S.T. should avoid allegations of victor's justice: it was set up in 2003 by a statute approved by the Iraqi Governing Council to prosecute people accused of, among other things, committing genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity during the period from 1968 to 2003. It is a national court, whose specific mandate is to try Iraqis accused of such crimes. The judges are all Iraqi, although they are permitted to appoint non-Iraqi nationals to act in advisory capacities to "provide assistance with respect to international law and the experience of similar tribunals." The only official language of the tribunal is Arabic. And the proceedings are televised so that Iraqis can see their former leader being held to answer for the crimes he allegedly committed.

Chances of Saddam Getting a Fair Trial?

Yet despite the I.S.T. being Iraqi in the fundamental aspects, there is a perception that it is the puppet of the United States — an image fostered by the fact that the Iraqi Governing Council, which approved the statute, was appointed by the Coalition of the Provisional Authority's Administrator, i.e. a U.S. official.

The International Center for Transitional Justice (I.C.T.J.) is one of only three official observers at the I.S.T. Its president, Juan Mendez, told IRIN:

"Essentially the court was set up by an occupation force which is already questionable under the laws of war. It was then legitimated by the governing body later, but it would have been better to wait for the Iraqi Governing Council to create it from scratch."

Professor David Crane, the chief prosecutor of the international tribunal in Sierra Leone, expressed qualified optimism for the I.S.T. early on in the trial: "Despite my disdain for the way the I.S.T. was created outside of international norms by the United States, I must say I am impressed with the way the judges are carefully taking Iraqi law, along with various principles of international law, and shaping it for their use to ensure that justice is done from an Iraqi point of view."

The fact that the trial was being performed by the Iraqis reduced the perception that the court was an imposition of justice by the victorious party. Yet some commentators would have preferred a more international element to the proceedings. Hanny Megally, the director of the Middle East and North Africa Program of the I.C.T.J., commented:

"We would have preferred to have a court with more international involvement. The concern was that the Iraqi judicial system, after 30 or 40 years of corruption, oppression, and nepotism, would struggle to mount trials on such major issues as crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide."

Mendez concurs: "A hybrid tribunal (i.e. a court composed of international as well as domestic judges) would have been a better policy choice by both Iraqis and the occupation forces."

The perception that the trial may not achieve impartiality has been compounded by the killing of some defense lawyers, and furthered by the political nature of the make-up of the

judiciary; there is a ban on Baathists being appointed judges. One judge has already been removed on the basis that he was a member of the Baath party. As one legal commentator pointed out:

"Once all Baath judges are disqualified who will be left? Mostly judges who were victims of Saddam's regime."

Mendez also sees the removal of the judge as an attack on the independence of the judiciary, but despite recognizing certain flaws, he is not prepared to rule out the possibility of a fair trial. He advocates a wait and see policy, saying:

"Depending on how the trial is conducted it could still on the whole pass the test of legitimacy and conduct a fair trial. We have to wait till the end to judge whether the trial has lived up to international standards."

The Nineties Vogue for International Courts

The I.S.T., a domestic court trying Iraqis, has been questioned over its ability to provide a fair trial because of perceived vested interests or victor's justice. An alternative, which exists at the other end of the scale in terms of methods of trial, is the international tribunal. This is a tribunal set up outside the territory where the crimes have been committed, and is presided over by international judges: there is no domestic involvement. Ad hoc international tribunals were set up in the nineties to address the legacies of Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, and were the first such internationally constituted tribunals since the trials in Nuremberg and Tokyo. The bodies constituted were the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (I.C.T.Y.), which hears cases in The Hague, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (I.C.T.R.), which hears cases in Arusha, Tanzania. The relevant law is in each case a specific statute passed by a U.N. resolution.

Domestic Reaction to International Courts

The incorporation of international tribunals should prevent any allegations of victor's justice or partisan trials. But this does not guarantee that they are well-received by the countries affected, or at least by the politicians in the countries affected. Both the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda sought to conduct the trials themselves in their own countries, and there was some resentment, at least initially, at a foreign body ordering the extradition of nationals to an international court.

The I.C.T.Y. was not popular among Serbians when it was created in 1993. It received scant assistance when Slobodan Milosevic was in power, and even refused entry to Louise Arbour when she was the chief prosecutor and was trying to conduct investigations into atrocities. Later, Serbia opposed the extradition of Milosevic to The Hague and initially demanded that his trial be held in Serbia by the people of Serbia. When Milosevic was finally brought before the I.C.T.Y. he called it "an illegal and immoral institution, invented as reprisal for disobedient representatives of a disobedient people — as once there were concentration camps for superfluous peoples and people."

The criticism here was not that the trial was not going to be fair, but that it should not have happened in the first place; the U.N. had no right to be meddling in the affairs of other states. Some argue that Serbia's truculence towards the I.C.T.Y. explains why Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are still at large. They are also indictees of the I.C.T.Y. and Mladic is alleged to have been instrumental in the massacre at Srebrenica in which up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys died.

Similarly, the I.C.T.R. was not fully welcomed by Rwanda, which voted against its establishment, though for different reasons.

The I.C.T.R. has its seat in Arusha, Tanzania and conducts the trials of those who were alleged to have been complicit in the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in 1994. Unlike Serbia with respect to the I.C.T.Y., Rwanda was initially in favor of an international dimension to these trials. The Rwandan ambassador to the U.N. wrote a letter to the U.N. Security Council requesting cooperation in establishing a tribunal with an international dimension, precisely because it wanted the world to see that it was imposing justice, not vengeance. But the government of Rwanda claimed that the I.C.T.R. should be set up in Rwanda, that it should be able to impose the death penalty and that there should be at least one Rwandan judge on the tribunal. Its continued insistence on the death penalty, as well as its perceived inability to guarantee a fair trial, has to date precluded the I.C.T.R. from considering Rwanda an acceptable place to refer cases once the I.C.T.R. in Arusha is wound up. By comparison, the Bosnia-Herzegovina War Crimes Chamber is now receiving defendants referred by the I.C.T.Y.

The question remains whether it is right for external parties to exclude domestic involvement and dictate the terms of justice being meted out in the sovereign jurisdiction of other countries.

A Halfway House: Hybrid Tribunals

The middle ground between international tribunals and wholly domestic courts are courts called "hybrid tribunals." This type of court is incorporated in the country where the relevant crimes took place, and is presided over by a mixture of both national judges and international judges. It is the model that some transitional justice experts were advocating for Iraq, in place of the I.S.T.

Such tribunals have garnered praise for four principal reasons: the first is that the cases take place in the community affected, which lends immediacy to the proceedings. This is sometimes found wanting in, for example, the I.C.T.R. trials which many Rwandans feel cut off from and feel has little relevance to their lives.

Hybrid tribunals also tend to avoid allegations that they are partisan as the judicial body is composed of a mixture of domestic judges and international ones. They are also vital in helping to reconstruct a body of legal knowledge in the affected country, which may have been depleted under the previous regime; and they are cheaper than fully international tribunals which take place outside the relevant country.

Nicholas Koumjian, the Deputy General Prosecutor for Serious Crimes in East Timor, points out that the benefits of these hybrid courts include "the ability to better contribute to reconciliation of communities; the ability to help build capacity of domestic judicial systems and respect for the rule of law in the community that suffered the violence; and the lower cost of this mechanism as opposed to an international tribunal."

The hybrid tribunal was the model used in the Special Court for Sierra Leone and in the Special Panels for Serious Crimes in East Timor. It has now been adopted for the war crimes tribunals in Bosnia and the proposed Cambodian courts to try the Khmer Rouge. All of these tribunals deal with crimes committed before 2002, when the I.C.C. was established, changing the landscape of international justice.

The I.C.C.: A New Dawn

In respect of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity committed after 2002, the I.C.C. — created by the Rome Statute and located in The Hague — will now be able to exercise jurisdiction. There are two important caveats: one is that the I.C.C. will only deal with such crimes when the country in which the crimes took place has failed to take legal action against the perpetrators. National courts will be responsible for trying those accused of such crimes under the principle known as complementarity. So individual nations get the first bite of the judicial cherry. The second is that the jurisdiction of the I.C.C. is not total, relying as it does on the country in question to invite I.C.C. investigators in, or having no interested friends among the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to protect it.

Whatever its flaws, the world now has a permanent body devoted to trying genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes: an idea first mooted after the Second World War has finally come into being. This means that not only ad hoc international tribunals such as the I.C.T.Y. and I.C.T.R., but also hybrid tribunals such as the Sierra Leone Special Court, will in theory no longer to be set up under international auspices.

Paul van Zyl of the International Center for Transitional Justice, although a staunch supporter of the I.C.C., sees this as a negative. He has described hybrid tribunals as "a welcome trend" that "have an effect on the domestic jurisdiction."

Commenting on the fact that the I.C.C. only has the capacity to prosecute a very few people, perhaps as few as five "big fish" for each war or regime change, he continued:

"It would be unfortunate for the international community and donors to view the I.C.C. as a panacea: to say that they have invested in the I.C.C. and there is no need for intervention on the justice front at a domestic level in the countries in question. Domestic institutions need to be given resources and resource-strengthened to be able to deal with this impunity gap between the people the I.C.C. targets and the vast majority of people underneath.

"These people are not only low level trigger-pullers, they is also going to be a large number of middle and senior ranking perpetrators who will escape the jurisdiction of the I.C.C. The Sierra Leone Special Court and others have shown us what hybrid tribunals can do and if anything they make the case for more hybrids not less."

The Future

International justice is itself currently in transition. It exists in various forms in different places: exclusively domestic, exclusively international, or hybrid. The I.C.C. has been designed to allow national courts primary jurisdiction and will only step in where that obligation has not been met. Practitioners of international criminal justice welcome the advent of the I.C.C. as an important addition to the armory in the struggle for international justice, which will bring an end to the impunity human rights abusers have for so long enjoyed. It is the flagship of international justice. However, they are concerned that it should not be seen as the only weapon. There will still be a need for building the capacity of legal systems at a national level, as well as a need to try more than just the few "big fish." The I.C.C. is a symbol of justice throughout the world, but there is room to focus on how it can be complemented by processes at other levels. © IRIN

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Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 24 July 2006

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International Clips on Liberia

International Telecommunication Union (ITU): First Liberian returnees graduate from ITU/UNHCR ICT Training Center

M2 PressWIRE via NewsEdge Corporation: DATE: 21/07/2006

Geneva - The first batch of twenty-nine students graduated after two months of intensive training in computer skills at an information and communication technology (ICT) training centre in Monrovia, Liberia. The training centre was established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the lead United Nations agency for information and communication technology issues, which pooled resources with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Other partners in this project include two Liberian-based non-governmental organizations - the Liberia Opportunity Industrialization Centre (LOIC) and the Foundation for African Development Aid (ADA) who renovated the premises and installed a wireless internet connection and payphone along with Cellcom Telecommunications Inc., a mobile operator in Liberia. Training in ICT helps build computer skills of young people and will especially assist young refugees returning home. "Every day was a big challenge for us. It was not easy. But now I feel very satisfied and I plan to continue my studies," Jerome Williams, a returnee from Nigeria, said.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivorian town relatively calm after two killed in pre-election clashes

DIVO, Ivory Coast, July 24, 2006 (AFP) - Relative calm returned early Monday to Ivory Coast's south-central town of Divo after violent weekend clashes between pro-government loyalists and opposition militants over preparations for upcoming elections. At least two people were killed and 36 injured on Sunday in the government-controlled town, days after the main city Abidjan was paralysed by angry demonstrations against an identification scheme to prepare for UN-backed elections. Shops and markets remained closed, and few cars or motorcycles were seen in downtown Divo. Military patrols could be seen occasionally firing into the air or using tear gas to disperse crowds trying to gather along the main streets.

Local Media – Newspapers

World Bank Outlines Priority Assistance for War-Ravaged Liberia

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, National Chronicle and Liberian Express)

- Following a first-hand assessment of several facilities in Liberia, the World Bank President, Paul D. Wolfowitz, has outlined a number of priority assistance for the war-ravaged country. Mr. Wolfowitz said that “Liberia needs everything and needs everything at once,” adding that the Bank will focus 75 percent of its assistance to Liberia’s infrastructure.

Police Denies Media Reports on Threat against Muslim Women

(The Inquirer and Public Agenda)

- The Liberia National Police has described as a “misrepresentation and contradiction,” media reports that the Director of Police had warned Muslim women against wearing veils. The Police clarified that Director Muna Sieh had said that some criminals are now wearing veils like these Muslim women as a way of disguising their identity. The intention of the Police Director was clear and not intended to deny anyone from practicing his or her religious customs, the Police said.

Liberia Gets Fresh Army as Recruits Begin Military Training Today

(The News, Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- The first batch of soldiers of the new Liberian army on Saturday took the oath of allegiance, which was administered by Defense Minister Brownie Samukai at the Barclay Training Center. The recruits will undergo 15 weeks of intensive, beginning today at the former compound of the Voice of America in Careysburg, outside Monrovia.

Three Convicted for Armed Robbery

(Daily Observer, Liberian Express and Public Agenda)

- The jury at the Criminal Court “D” at the Temple of Justice unanimously convicted three suspected armed robbers on Friday for killing a family after they had raided their home in Paynesville last October.

Monrovia Gets Pipe borne Water Tuesday

(The Analyst)

- Addressing a news conference over the weekend, the Managing Director of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, N. Hunbu Tulay, said that the Corporation has completed repair works on the damaged facilities and is set to pump water to parts of central Monrovia on Tuesday.

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

Army Recruits Begin Training in Monrovia

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

World Bank Announces Additional Aid to Liberia

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Water Supply to Be Restored to Monrovia Today

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

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

Child Labour on the Increase in Liberia Says International Group

- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has reported that child labour practices in Liberia had increased by 40 percent. Madam Dorothy Jobolingo of the IRC said that the report was based on a survey conducted in Monsterrado, Nimba and Lofa Counties.

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.