

**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 Press and Public Affairs Office  
as at:**

**Tuesday, 26 February 2008**

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

Local News	
Kamajors Pledge to Support Mr. President! / <i>For di People</i>	Page 3
Special Court...55, Others Lose Appeal Case / <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 4
Special Court – The Registry / <i>Premier News</i>	Page 5
Law School Holds Foundation Day in Sierra Leone / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Pages 6-8
International News	
S Leone Warlords Lost Appeal / <i>Afrol News</i>	Page 9
Sierra Leone Court Upholds War-Crimes Convictions / <i>AP</i>	Page 10
Court Upholds S Leone Convictions / <i>MWC News</i>	Page 11
As Taylor’s Trial ... Special BBC Documentary Tomorrow / <i>Liberian Express</i>	Page 12
Ex-NPFL Fighter Testifies – Taylor Ordered Fighters Evacuated / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 13
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 14-15

**MEMBERS OF** the Civil Defence Force otherwise known as the Kamajors from the southern province have pledged their support to President Ernest Bai Koroma during his visit to Bo last Sunday.

Addressing the Kamajors at the Bo Coronation Field, President Koroma assured them that he was willing and ready to work with them and all well-meaning Sierra Leoneans. He allayed the fears of regionalism or tribalism stating that he is President for all Sierra Leoneans and not for the

After the meeting at the Coronation Field, top

After the meeting at the Coronation Field, top

commanders and leaders of the Kamajors followed the President to the APC Party Office in Puj where he issued them with APC party cards of membership.

After the meeting at the Coronation Field, top

## Exclusive

Tuesday, February 26 2008

# *Special Court...* **55, Others Lose Appeal Case**

Three accused persons in the former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) who appealed against their sentences by the Special Court last July have, last Friday, lost their appeal.

Santigie Borbor Kamara and Alex Tamba Brima were sentenced to fifty years imprisonment each while Ibrahim Bazy Kamara was slammed a forty five (45) years imprisonment.

Reading the judgment last Friday at the Special Court, the President of the Appeal Court, Justice Gelager King said the crimes committed by the three AFRC accused persons were brutal, atrocious ever recorded in human history.

He said innocent civilians including children and women were murdered and hacked to death; while others were burnt down alive.

Young girls and women, he

said were gang raped to death while others were mutilated.

"Sons were forced to rape mothers and brothers forced to rape sisters," he stated, adding, "as a result of this there is no need to grant them the appeal."

The earlier sentenced passed in the July 2007 against the three accused persons ranging between 45yrs to 50yrs still stands," the President of the Appeal Court informed.

Meanwhile authorities at the Special Court are looking out for a place where the prisoners could serve their jail terms; either in Sweden, United Kingdom or any country in West Africa.

Editor's Note: We had cause to reproduce this article we produced in our yesterday's edition which was incomplete as a result of the printer's devil. We appologise for whatever incinvinience it caused to our numerous readers.

## Premier News

Tuesday, 26 February 2008

# Special Court

## THE REGISTRY

### The Registrar's Office

The Registry of the Special Court for Sierra Leone provides the overall administrative direction and necessary services to all organs of the Court in accordance with the Statute of the Special Court and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Registry is also the official channel of communication of the court.

During the reporting period, the Registry was headed by Mr. Lovemore G. Munlo, SC who was appointed Registrar on 16 February 2006. Following Mr. Munlo's departure in March 2007, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Mr. Herman von Hobe, then Deputy Registrar, as Acting Registrar of the Special Court on 16 March 2007. Mr. von Hobe joined the Court in July 2006.

The Registrar and Deputy Registrar are supported by two legal advisors, two Special Assistants, a Project Officer, a Senior Secretary and two Administrative Assistants. They are also assisted by a Liaison Officer based in New York, who represents the Court in the Management Committee meetings and provides a conduit to Registry operations in Freetown. A Senior Legal Officer to the Registrar was appointed Head of The Hague Sub-Office to oversee all operations in relation to the Charles Taylor trial.

While the Registrar is in charge of the overall administration of the Court, the Deputy Registrar serves as the head of the Judicial and Legal Services Division which comprises all sections responsible for the judicial support to the Court, including Court Management, Witness and Victims Section, Detention, Chambers and the Office of the Principal Defender on issues dealing with defence counsel service contracts. The Deputy Registrar is also responsible for coordinating the formulation and implementation of the Completion Strategy, in consultation with the President, Judges, and other relevant parties of the Court. The Deputy Registrar also chairs the Committee on Personnel Questions.

### REGISTRY LEGAL OFFICE

#### The Role of the Registry in the

#### Charles Taylor Trial

Immediately following the transfer of Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court on 29 June 2006, the President of the Court sent a letter to the Government of the Netherlands requesting him to be tried in The Hague. The Dutch Government responded to the request favourably.

On 13 April 2006, the Registry immediately concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the ICC regarding administrative arrangements. This agreement allows the Special Court to use the courtroom and detention facilities of the ICC for the purposes of the Taylor trial.

Following the United Kingdom's expression of willingness to enforce a sentence of the accused Taylor in case of a conviction, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1688 on 16 June 2006. This resolution paved the way for the Court to conclude a headquarters agreement with the Dutch Government on 19 June 2006. On that same day, the President of the Court ordered the Taylor proceedings to be conducted in The Hague under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Special Court. The accused Taylor was accordingly transferred on 20 June 2006.

#### Legal Submission by the Registry in the Taylor Trial

On 19 January 2007, the Office filed a submission related to the Defence request to cease video



surveillance of legal consultations of the accused Taylor. The submission, which supported a discontinuation of the surveillance, resulted in an order by the President to communicate the Registrar's decision to the ICC. On 22 March 2007, the ICC Registrar informed the Special Court of his decision to cease video surveillance of Charles Taylor's legal consultations.

On 20 February 2007, the Office filed a submission on the Defence request for review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Special Court and the ICC and for modification of the accused Taylor's conditions of detention. The request by the Defence was denied.

#### The Hague Sub-Office

Prior to the transfer of the accused Taylor to The Hague, the Registry had begun logistical arrangements in preparation for the trial. The Registry Legal Office assisted in the negotiation of a commercial Lease Agreement for office space for the Special Court's Sub-Office and in arrangements with the Dutch Government for the accommodation of witnesses appearing in the Taylor trial. In January 2007, a Lease Agreement on office space and a pre-contract for witness accommodation were signed. Much work was done to make the location secure and fit to welcome the witnesses.

The Registry Legal Office also liaised with the Dutch Authorities regarding visa protocols for travel to The Hague by staff, witnesses, and personal visitors to the accused Taylor. The Court has also been liaising with the Dutch authorities and others regarding the movement of witnesses to and from The Hague.

In February 2007, a working group on The Hague operations was established to ensure a harmonized approach between Freetown and The Hague regarding preparations for the Taylor trial. The Deputy Registrar headed the Working Group from its inception and handed over the Chairmanship to the Chief of General Services upon his appointment as Acting Registrar.

In March 2007, Michael Adenuga, the Senior Legal Advisor to the Registrar and the Head of the Sub-Office, assumed his duties. The Hague Sub-Office is operational and approximately 90 staff members will be based in The Hague.

#### Other Functions of the Registry Legal Office

In addition to negotiating with the ICC and the Dutch Authorities to ensure the smooth running of the Taylor trial in The Hague, the Legal Office continued to support the Registrar and Deputy Registrar in their judicial and administrative functions.

The Legal Office provides strategic advice to the Registrar and Deputy Registrar on matters pertaining to the detention of accused persons, witness matters

supervision of defence counsel matters, personnel matters, including disciplinary proceedings and staff appeals, commercial agreements concluded on behalf of the Court and agreements with States and international organizations on the operational support of the Court.

In order to ensure that the medical needs of the Court's staff are provided for, the Registry concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Choitram Hospital, Freetown on 29 March 2006 regarding access to medical treatment of staff at the hospital. Additionally, on 23 August 2006, the Registry also signed a MOU with the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) for its necessary operational support to the Special Court.

In addition, the office liaised with UNMIL and the Liberian Government with regard to arrangements for Court operations carried out in the territory of Liberia, including trial-related work by the Prosecution and Defence, and Outreach activities. These discussions were a result of Security Council Resolution 1750 of 30 March 2007 which provided a basis for support and security by UNMIL for activities conducted by the Special Court in Liberia.

In addition to the legal submissions made in the Taylor trial, the Legal Office advised the Registrar on various submissions to the Court in relation to the RUF trial. On 22 January 2007, the Office of the Registrar, together with the Office of the Principal Defender, filed two submissions in response to the request by the Sesay Defence team seeking adequate resources. Trial Chamber I granted additional facilities and upheld the current remuneration of experts at the service of the defence.

Additionally, in cooperation with the Defence Office the Legal Office represented the Registrar in arbitration proceedings instituted by the Sesay Defence team in relation to the interpretation of the Legal Services Contract between the Principal Defender and Defence counsel and the provision of additional funds to the Defence team based on the size and complexity of its case. The arbitration award, rendered on 26 April 2007, confirmed the existing interpretation of the Legal Services Contract and found the Sesay case sufficiently complex as to warrant additional resources under special considerations by the Registrar.

*Culled from: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Issued: 2006 to May 2007*

## Awareness Times (Online)

Monday, 25 February 2008

### **Law School Holds Foundation Day in Sierra Leone**

By Abdul Karim Kabia

The Council of Legal Education, Sierra Leone Law Council commemorated its Eighteenth Foundation Day, Saturday 23rd February 2008 at the Leone Preparatory School Hall, King Harman Road in Freetown. 'Contemporary Challenges Confronting the Legal Profession in Sierra Leone' was the theme for the event which attracted a galaxy of legal practitioners.



Arnold Gooding

In his welcome statement, Hon. Justice Bankole Thompson who is the Interim Director of the Sierra Leone Law School, pinpointed the importance the school places on commemorating its Foundation Day. He also stated that the school's present enrolment consists of 37 students of which 10 are foreign nationals from The Gambia and Cameroon. He said the rationale behind such a theme was borne out of the fact that though lawyers belong to the intellectual class as custodians of the law, the profession is being negatively perceived by the public.

The Chairman of the occasion, who also doubles as Registrar of the School, Blyden Jenkins Johnson intimated that as one of the midwives to the establishment of the Law School in 1990, he is very proud of the rapid growth of that institution. He said it was no miscalculation to establish the school as it has yielded dividends. He expressed his fervent hope that the school would continue with the pace.

The Secretary General of the Legal Council, Johannes O.S Wellington who took the podium next intimated that the profession is faced with a whole lot of challenges, ranging from professional manner of practice to the question of lawyers practicing outside the Legal Council's Act. He also made a reference to the absence of a legal code of conduct for practitioners as another major challenge.

On his part, the President of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, Lawyer C.F. Edwards informed the audience that with the establishment of the Law School in 1990, the problem of students being forced to travel abroad to study law has been eased. He therefore extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to those who have sacrificed a lot to see the school grow, as it has immensely improved the standard of the legal profession in the country.

He however noted with dismay that most legal practitioners avoid practicing in the provinces. He advised young lawyers to consider practicing the profession in the provinces as it has been a fantastic experience to him. He ended by assuring the school that the Bar Association will always give the necessary support when required.



A. Tejan-Cole

The Chairman of the Anti Corruption Commission, Hon. Abdul Tejan Cole iterated that gone are the days when the activities of lawyers were limited to the court room as the profession has grown and become more dynamic than that. He said a lawyer should be a harmonizer, legal architect and an engineer of peace. He underscored the mission of the school as being a training ground for legal practitioners to understand social issues, lawyers' skills and to take part in providing access to justice among others.

Giving the Foundation Day lecture, the guest lecturer of the occasion, Arnold Bishop Gooding who is also a Legal Practitioner and Investment Consultant pointed out that he initially was very skeptical of the school's success, but said he is now happy to see the institution of age as evidenced by its production of distinguished Barristers, including the ACC Boss, Hon. Abdul Tejan Cole and Mrs. Jamesina King, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission to name but a few.

He intimated that law practitioners have a duty to the courts, the profession and to the people by upholding the ethics of the noble profession.

Arnold Bishop Gooding emphasized the point that lawyers belong to a responsible and respectable class of the citizenry; hence the need to desist from the language of violence. He said they should practice the language of words which is the Lawyer's language, and that the courtroom can no way be compared to an Olympic pitch for boxers.

He also advised that Lawyers should strive to uphold the nobility of the bench as according to him, "without a noble Bench there will be no noble Bar."

In his conclusion, the Guest Speaker emphasized the need for judges to be adequately paid in order to achieve a true state of justice in the country.



## Afrol News

Monday, 25 February 2008

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/28111>

### **S Leone warlords lost appeal**

afrol News, 25 February - The Appeals Chamber of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has upheld the long sentences it had earlier imposed on the three leaders of the defunct ruling Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC).

The three - Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu - were convicted last June on 11 of the 14 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international humanitarian law.

Brima and Kanu were each sentenced to 50 years in prison while Kamara received 45 years.

Unsatisfied with the outcome of the case, the ex-junta leaders filed an appeal.

But the presiding judge and President of Sierra Leone's war crimes court, Justice Gelega King, had upheld the judgment and sentence of the trial chamber because it was "pursuant to Section 102 of procedure and evidence."

The convicts are due to serve their jail terms in an undisclosed African country.

The prosecution team also contested an earlier sentence the court imposed on leaders of the former civil defence forces [Kamajor fighters], arguing that their jail term did not march with their committed crimes.

Meanwhile, the trial of the former rebel-turned-President of Liberia, continues at The Hague, with the 18th prosecution witness appearing on the witness box on Thursday. Charles Taylor has been tried for his alleged involvement in Sierra Leone's civil war.

By staff writer

## Associated Press

Saturday, 23 February 2008

### **Sierra Leone court upholds war-crimes convictions**

Clarence Roy-Macaulay | Freetown, Sierra Leone

A United Nations-backed court on Friday upheld the convictions of three former rebel leaders who were sentenced to half-century prison terms last year for rape, murder and other war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's decade-long conflict.

The three were leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, a junta that overthrew an elected government in 1997 and was ousted by a Nigerian-led peacekeeping force the following year.

Defence lawyers had appealed the July verdicts. The prison sentences were the first punishments handed down by the war-crimes tribunal since it was set up.

"This final decision closes a violent chapter in the history of Sierra Leone," said prosecutor Stephen Rapp.

The West African nation's war lasted from 1991 to 2002.

Indicted in 2003, the three men's joint trial began in Freetown two years later. On Friday, a five-judge appeals chamber of the court dismissed the appeal, saying in a statement it was "without merit".

Presiding Judge George Gelaga-King said the judging panel "took into consideration the gravity of the crimes committed, as being the most heinous, brutal and atrocious crimes ever recorded in human history".

The three are Alex Tamba Brima, Santigie Borbor Kanu and Brima Bazzy Kamara. They were convicted of 11 war-crimes charges, including terrorism, enslavement, rape and murder. The July ruling marked the first time an international court issued a conviction on the conscription of child soldiers, who in Sierra Leone were often drugged and forced into battle.

"Those who came forward to tell their stories as witnesses are nothing short of heroic," Rapp said. "These men, women and even children took great risks so that the world would know the horrors that the people of this country suffered. Their bravery has ensured that the men responsible for these atrocious crimes would not escape justice."

He added: "Today's judgement resulted from the courage of the people of Sierra Leone. It is this courage that gives us all great hope of a future of justice and progress in this country. And, above all, of peace."

As each of the former rebel leaders left the court, they waved to their relatives and friends who had come to watch the public hearing. -- Sapa-AP

## MWC News

Tuesday, 26 February 2008

<http://mwcnews.net/content/view/20455&Itemid=1>

### COURT UPHOLDS SIERRA LEONE CONVICTIONS

Global

By Agencies

A UN-backed court has upheld the convictions of three former Sierra Leone fighters sentenced to 50-year prison terms for rape, murder and other war crimes committed during their country's decade-long conflict.

The five-judge chamber dismissed the appeal by the men's defence lawyers on Friday as "without merit".

"This final decision closes a violent chapter in the history of Sierra Leone," Stephen Rapp, the prosecutor, said.

The three were leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, a group that overthrew the elected government in 1997 and was itself ousted a year later by Nigerian-led forces.



The convictions were the first by any international court on the conscription of child soldiers [EPA]

Their convictions in July last year were the first handed down by Sierra Leone's war crimes tribunal.

#### 'Brutal and atrocious crimes'

The convictions were the first by any international court on the conscription of child soldiers - who were often drugged and forced into battle during the West African country's 1991-2002 war.

George Gelaga-King, the presiding Judge Justice, said the appeals panel "took into consideration the gravity of the crimes committed, as being the most heinous, brutal and atrocious crimes ever recorded in human history".

The three men - Alex Tamba Brima, Santigie Borbor Kanu and Brima Bazzy Kamara - went on trial in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, in 2005, two years after their indictment.

They were convicted of 11 war crimes charges, including terrorism, enslavement, rape and murder.

Because of security concerns, the three were expected to serve their prison time outside of Sierra Leone - most likely in Europe, though it has yet to be decided where.

"A few countries have offered to take them in," a court spokesman told reporters after the ruling.

He did not name the countries, but last year both Austria and Sweden had volunteered to take them as inmates and pay their expenses.

The special tribunal was set up following the Sierra Leone's 10-year conflict, in which about a half-million people died and rebels engaged in rape, pillaging and cutting off the limbs of thousands of civilians.

Liberian Express (Liberia)  
Monday, 25 February 2008

# *As Taylor's Trial Continue*

## **SPECIAL BBC DOCUMENTARY TOMORROW**

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) will tomorrow, February 26, broadcast a special documentary "Diamonds and Justice" featuring former Liberian leader Charles Taylor currently facing war crimes charges in The Hague.

The series "This World on BBC2," will also feature diamond mining in Sierra Leone and Liberia and Taylor's trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian leader is facing an 11-count indictment includ-

ing murder, rape and other humanitarian crimes in connection with the decade-long brutal civil war in Sierra Leone. Three Liberian witness and dozens of others have so far testified against Taylor.

Last week, a Liberian prosecution



*Former President Charles Taylor*  
witness testified to the alleged link between Taylor and the Sierra Leonean Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel movement of the Late Corporal Foday Sankoh.

Foday Lassana, known as "CO Nyan" said he joined Taylor's defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in 1990 and was as a High Frequency Radio Operator

*See Story on Page 6*

### **BBC DOCUMENTARY**

in Saclepa, Nimba County.

Nyan told the Special Court that Taylor first mentioned Sierra Leone's aggression against Liberia at a meeting held in the compound of Coca Cola Factory in Paynesville in 1990.

He said it was at the Coca Cola Factory's meeting attended by NPFL Special Forces including Isaac Musa, Francis Menwon, Dupoe Menkazon and Anthony Menkoagbeh, that Taylor announced Alpha Jets from Lungi Airport in Sierra Leone were killing Liberians.

Nyan said he was later seconded to RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh, in 1992 and was the overall signal commander in the Sierra Leonean Town of Pedemba in Kailahun District.

He claimed to have installed the first High Frequency Radio for the RUE.



New Democrat (Liberia)  
Monday, 25 February 2008

## EX-NPFL Fighter Testifies Taylor Ordered Fighters Evacuated

A former fighter has testified this week that Charles Taylor, as NPFL leader, ordered all NPFL fighters evacuated RUF frontlines in 1992 back to Liberia and large re-enforcements were dispatched into Sierra Leone to beef-up the rebels.

Today Lansana, an ethnic Mano, said he was one of the original NPFL recruits sent for advanced radio training. He said he was involved in radio messages between Charles Taylor and General Minquagbeh, a.k.a. Dried Pepper at Voya and between Charles Taylor and today Sankoh.

He said "Dried Pepper" reported by radio on a daily basis to "Ebony", a codename for Charles Taylor, on

present. The Generals addressed their troops and the evacuation started.

The Witness said he was promoted to overall signal commander for the RUF. He left Sierra Leone at first but was asked to return with a radio set to be installed at Pendembu for Sankoh. Lansana enabled radio communication with Butterfly and Sankoh (code named "Toyota") talked to Charles Taylor, telling him he was short on arms and ammunition and needed assistance. Taylor ordered Sankoh to travel to Banga. Sankoh came back with radio operators whom Lansana trained. Perry Kamara [who previously testified for the Prosecution] was among those trained by the Witness.

In 1992/1993, Lansana said he

the Liberian/Guinean border. When they ran out of salt and Maggi cubes, he crossed the border into Guinea, to a refugee camp in Yekepa where he stayed for three months.

After Samuel Doe was killed, Lansana was sent to the base at the Coca Cola factory in Monrovia. Lansana recounted a meeting that took place in the radio room the second day after his arrival, while he was doing his work as a radio operator. He was present when Charles Taylor was meeting with a group of more than 25 members of his Special Forces, including Domingo and Mustapha Jallow. Charles Taylor addressed them and said that it had come to his notice that alpha jets coming from a Sierra Leone airport base were killing people. At the end



he situation at the RUF frontline. As radio operator at the RUF base in Buedu, Lansana knew the content of these situation reports and he recounted that these included information about frequent misunderstandings between the NPFL troops in Sierra Leone and the RUF vanguards. He testified that in May 1992, a response was sent by radio including an instruction with immediate effect that all NPFL battalion commanders, including Dried Pepper, should evacuate all NPFL fighting men from Sierra Leone back to Liberia. The witness clarified that the reason for this was that the confusion between NPFL commanders and RUF Vanguards (special forces trained by Sankoh) resulted in a power struggle and too much fighting amongst themselves. In several meetings called Top 20, Top 40 and Top final, serious bloodshed took place.

Lansana said the instruction to vacate from Charles Taylor was sent by radio communication to Dried Pepper when Lansana operated the radio and sent it to the generals. Subsequently, Dried Pepper spoke to Charles Taylor over the radio while other Generals were

stayed at Pendembu and trained RUF members on how to encode messages and erect radio stations on the battlefield. In 1992, Lansana operated the radio for a second communication between Charles Taylor and Sankoh, who had captured artillery at Baima village for which he had no ammunition. Charles Taylor ordered Sankoh to come to Banga with the materials and exchange them for lighter arms. Sankoh left for Banga and returned with arms and ammunition. Sankoh subsequently received reports from the frontline commanders about an operation in Koidu, a diamond rich mining region in Kono district. In December 1992, Pendembu was attacked and Lansana went to Gbalahun and on to Teidu on the border of Sierra Leone and Liberia in January 1993.

Born in Ghanta, he said he studied electrical engineering at the University of Liberia until the war interrupted in 1989, when the NPFL entered Liberia at Yekepa from the Ivorian side. Lansana said that in the following weeks, Samuel Doe's soldiers attacked Mano people and that was the reason he left Monrovia and went back to Ghanta town and subsequently to Gberdin near

of the meeting. Charles Taylor said that he would inform the world that Sierra Leone had been used as a base to kill his people.

Lansana testified that on the same day of this meeting, he heard an interview with Charles Taylor on the BBC Radio and heard about the war in Liberia. There was a serious panic at the factory because of attacks on the NPFL in Monrovia and the highway was cut off by Prince Johnson's troops.

Lansana remained with the NPFL and went for advanced communications training, before he went with permission on leave and visited his people at Ghanta and subsequently his grandfather in Bomaru, Sierra Leone. In June/July 1991 NPFL/RUF fighters who were fighting side by side in Sierra Leone against the APC captured him. Lansana was sent to Voya, the RUF/NPFL Headquarters for Lofa County, Liberia, to continue his work as a radio operator. He was kept under supervision, because he was suspected to have absconded from the NPFL. The overall commander in Voya was General Minquagbeh, a.k.a. Dried Pepper, who used the radio room to send messages.

# United Nations Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 25 February 2008**

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **Contractors Accuse UNMIL of Practicing 'Modern Slavery'**

(The Monitor)

- [sic] The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has been accused of racial discrimination, forced labour and other administrative malpractices. In a letter to the National Staff Association of UNMIL, a copy of which is in the possession of this paper, the employees accused the Chief Civilian Personnel Officer Robert Picitrelli of abusing the law of Liberia at the highest level. The employees, most of whom have worked with UNMIL since 2003, termed the labour practice at the United Nations institution as modern slavery. We accept responsibilities during our duties just to survive from a devastating civil war in the face of the high rate of unemployment and acute poverty, the letter stated.

#### **UN Envoy Admonishes Liberians to shun Mob Violence**

(The Informer, Liberian Express and The News)

- The United Nations envoy to Liberia Ellen Løj has cautioned Liberians not to resort to mob violence and the destruction of public property, but to allow justice to take its course.
- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General spoke at a town hall meeting with the chiefs, elders and people of Tappita, in Nimba County, where the recent murder of a 38-year-old woman led to a violent mob action, resulting in the murder of another woman when the mob set the new UN-constructed police station ablaze.
- "What happened here just a few days ago is unacceptable. We are helping the Liberia National Police (LNP) to investigate the circumstances surrounding this murder. And we condemn this murder and the mob violence in the strongest possible terms," she stated.

#### **Government to Establish Land Reform Commission**

(New Democrat, The Inquirer and The News)

- In the midst of increasing cases of land disputes, the Government of Liberia has announced that it will shortly establish a land Reform Commission to review land tenure and registration systems.
- President Ellen Johnson said many people are encroaching on lands due to the displacement caused by the war. But she assured that the commission would be mandated to establish actual ownership and create means for land redistribution.
- Addressing hundreds of Liberian entrepreneurs Saturday at the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia at a one-day workshop on the future of small businesses in the Liberian economy, Johnson-Sirleaf suggested that individuals holding large land would have to relinquish a portion to those who do not have the opportunity to own land.

#### **Liberia and Firestone Sign Key Concession Agreement**

(The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer and The News)

- The Liberian Government on Friday signed a new agreement with the Firestone Plantation Company with added privileges for workers of the plantation. The Government and Firestone signed the agreement after months of disagreements over some sticky issues within the Firestone Concession.

- The amended and restated agreement reduces the regular terms of the company from 86 to 36 years and gives Firestone a total concession area of 118,990 acres of land. The News newspaper considers the signing of the agreement as a milestone in revitalizing the rubber sector of Liberia.

## **Radio Summary**

**Local Media – Radio VERITAS** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **President Sirleaf Urges Support for Liberian Businesses**

- Speaking at the weekend at a forum organized by Liberian Entrepreneurs and Asset Management Development in the Name of Christ, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf urged Liberians involved in business to come together and expand their businesses in order to increase their profit margin.
- President Sirleaf said it was time for Liberians to compete with non-Liberians businesses and encouraged citizens to promote indigenous businesses.
- The President recently submitted a business incentive bill to the Legislature to allow foreigners to operate 26 businesses set aside exclusively for Liberians something that has sparked protest from local business people and entrepreneurs.

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

### **Government and Firestone Sign 36-Year Agreement**

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

### **U.S. President Bush Seeks More Support for Liberia**

- Speaking to reporters in Monrovia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the U.S. President has sent a request to congress to increase it budgetary support to Liberia.
- President Sirleaf said the request is seeking to double the U.S. current budgetary support to Liberia.
- The U.S. current budgetary support to post-conflict Liberia stands at more than one hundred fifty million dollars.
- President Sirleaf said she is also confident the US will provide other kinds of support than the ones announced by President Bush during his visit.

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

\*\*\*\*