

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



Photos from yesterday's Sensitisation Day on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment in the workplace in today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Friday, 26 October 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times
Friday, 26 October 2007

Child Labour/Trafficking and their Effects on Nation Building

By Kaprie Kanu

Child Labour is the exploitative use of children by adults for economic gains or other selfish motives while child trafficking is the act of moving children from their familiar localities to a distant setting either within the country or outside all for ulterior motives. In both cases, the child suffers either physically, morally or mentally. Many a time adults approach unsuspecting poor rural parents to willingly hand their children to them as relatives to be taken to larger towns or abroad with a promise for affordable and better education.

These promise-providers exploit the children in various ways including forcing them into early marriages, engaging them in hard labour or using them as sex slaves. Many of them, when misused, are thrown out into the streets where they become commercial sex workers in the case of the girls, or for the boys to become thieves or even drug addicts.

These modern forms of slavery have become a menace in our society and the third world generally, leaving the future gloomy for these children who happen to be our future leaders. Often times, these innocent children languish and perish in the destinations they find themselves thus taking away from them the chance for the fulfilment of their potential as contributors to Nation Building.

Additionally, these child-users care not if their victims after being dumped become menaces to the societies they find themselves in by transforming into common street criminals.

It is quite certain that ignorance and poverty on the part of parents as well as a desire to see their children live in luxury outside their localities are the causes of these grotesque and dehumanizing acts. These parents who receive such offers for their children to be taken away consider it as 'Kind gestures' with the hope that these children will spring up to be saviors and elevators of their families tomorrow.

What has heightened these phenomena in Sierra Leone particularly over the years is the effect of the decade long civil conflict that completely devastated the economic base of our rural communities, which in turn made them impoverished. This situation was largely responsible for their gullibility.

In most cases, perpetrators think securing children from rural communities are the safest means of achieving their goals. This is more so with children left alone, abandoned and neglected probably because their parents were not able to escape with them or because the parents were killed during the war and they are therefore being cared for by other relatives. These individuals who come to their aid with the pretext of caring for them end up using them in the wrong manner. The act is now becoming so rampant that only effective sensitization put in place, including the recent applaudable enactment of the Child Rights Bill as an Act can minimize and subsequently eradicate these practices.

With the co-operation of world bodies (we are now living in a global village!), these happenings are now globally being damned as illegal and thus a push for their total abolition is picking steam world wide, as they are now recognised as new forms of slave trading, 200 years after abolition of slavery.

As a young activist, these issues are very close to my heart since I consider these children turned labourers as my partners in nation building and I also consider them to be subsequent future leaders of this great nation of ours.

The Author, Kaprie Kanu is a child's rights activist currently attached to Awareness Times Newspaper as a Senior Editor.

Awoko

Friday, 26 October 2007

MURDER ????

By Saffa Moriba in
Kenema

Eighteen years old Halimatu Kamara of 34 Fudia Terrace Spur Loop in Freetown died at by 2 am on Monday October 22, 2007, at the government hospital in Kenema.

According to Police constable 9592 Kadie Turay of the media unit at the police division in Kenema the deceased came to Kenema along with her friend Victoria Jarret on Friday 19th October 2007 on an alleged love trek.

Both of them were lodged at the Humble cottage guesthouse at 15

Kandeh Street.

Kadie explained that on Sunday 21st October 2007 in the afternoon the deceased complained about her chest burning.

Reportedly during the night hours on Sunday when she apparently failed to get any respite, Halimatu (The deceased) was taken to the area where commercial vehicles park and put onboard the Abess Bus which was supposed to leave late in the night for Freetown.

Halimatu reportedly grew worse and felt tormented, so she was subsequent rushed to the government hospital where she was hospitalized and examined by Dr. Roger.

Her condition did not improve and unfortunately she passed

away in the early morning hours of Monday.

So far four people have been arrested in connection with the death.

Sedie Sandy, Mohamed Ibrahim Basma alias Amuday of 8 Demby street, Michael Kamara owner of the guest house and Victoria Jarret who reportedly travelled with the deceased to Kenema.

Yesterday Wednesday 24th October, Police officers connected with the investigation, took the corpse along with the four arrested persons to Freetown for further investigation.

The father of the deceased Julius Kamara who had traveled to Kenema upon learning about her daughter's plight also traveled with the

entourage.

Speaking to journalists at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Kenema, the Lebanese man Amuday Basma who is a diamond dealer denied seeing the deceased let alone have an

affair with her but disclosed that he gave four hundred thousand leones for her medication.

Meanwhile the house of Victoria Jarret was reportedly stoned by

angry youths Wednesday night upon learning about the incident. Irate youths also attempted to riot in the early hours of Thursday morning causing most Lebanese owned shops in the City center to close.

Awareness Times
Friday, 26 October 2007

'She was not a 'Rarray-Girl' but a decent Schoolgirl!'

Angry street boys team up with dead teenager's brothers to attack Lebanese as revenge for Mystery Death

By Aruna Turay

Tension was mounted all over Central and Eastern Freetown, Sierra Leone yesterday, Thursday 25th October when some irate street youths (commonly known as 'rarray-boys') teamed up with the male relatives of a dead 18 years old girl to wreck havoc upon anything remotely associated with Lebanon including the capital city's Lebanese population. The crisis saw all shops owned by Indians and Lebanese in the city, swiftly shutting down with those who were too late to close down their stores, suffering massive looting of their shops. The dead girl's name was given as Alima Sheriff Kamara and she was alleged to have been raped to death by a 40 year old Lebanese man who was born in Sierra Leone of a famous Lebanese family, the Basmās. The alleged murderer is named Amudae Basmā and he is a diamond dealer who resides in Kenema, Eastern Sierra Leone.

Right in front of Awareness Times offices, the irate youths forcefully grabbed sharp, shiny knives from cutlery saleswomen selling in the streets and gathered making open threats to

kill any Lebanese national they could set eyes on and to set their shops ablaze. Several of them walked up the steps of the newspaper to request for press coverage of their grievances.

In an interview with this press, one of the brothers of the late Alima disclosed that on Saturday 21st October, a friend of the deceased known as Susan Victoria Jarrett allegedly came to their residence at Spur Loop in Western Freetown and collected her on a trip to Kenema without the permission of her parents. He said since then, the deceased's parents have been looking for her and have even reported the matter to the police.

According to him, on Wednesday 24th October, their parents received an anonymous phone call from Kenema disclosing the shocking news to them that their daughter had been found dead in the house of one Amudae Basmā, a rich and famous Lebanese business man in that city. He went on to say that his parents then went to Kenema and brought the corpse to Freetown under a military police escort for an autopsy to determine the cause of her death. Another earlier version recounted to

Awareness Times was that the late teenager was a call-girl (commonly known as Rarray Girl) however her brothers and friends vehemently denied the reports instead asserting that Alima was taken by her friend Susan to Amudae Basmā who allegedly dosed her with drugs before raping her to death in his house. The relatives say that Alima was a decent school girl attending the Apex International School. Attempts to contact the school for verification of the late Alima's attendance proved futile as of press time last evening.

However, AIG for the Eastern Region, Elizabeth Turay informed that the police were treating the death as a "suspected murder case" and were awaiting results of an autopsy on the body. She confirmed that both Jarret and Basmā were in custody and assisting the police in their investigations.

The Local Unit Commander (LUC) Central Police Division S.B Kargbo who was at Wilberforce Street to personally arrest the situation, also spoke to Awareness Times and confirmed that the matter is under investigation by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) with the corpse presently at the

Connaught Hospital Mortuary where toxicology and other tests were to be performed.

LUC Kargbo however lamented that the actions of the irate youths was unlawful and would not be condoned. Police fired teargas at one point to contain the rampaging youths but not before they had helped themselves to electronic goods, generators, mobile phones and the like from Lebanese shops they raided. LUC Kargbo also regretfully informed that some relatives of the deceased attacked police officers and even wounded one Police Constable Prince Momodu with stones they flung at the police.

Meanwhile, in a telephone conversation with Awareness Times, the President of the 10,000-strong Lebanese community in Sierra Leone, Samir Hassaniyeh expressed "shock and distress" as he informed of the devastating effect of the riot on Lebanese owned businesses adding that even his own Vice President of the Lebanese Community had been captured and severely beaten by the rampaging youths who proceeded to loot his entire store.

Agence France-Presse

Thursday, 25 October 2007

Lebanese-owned shops looted after death of Sierra Leone girl

Scores of Sierra Leonean youths rampaged across the capital Freetown ransacking over a dozen shops owned by Lebanese traders from early Thursday, police said.

The riots in the war-scarred and desperately impoverished west African country were sparked by the death of a local teenage girl allegedly at the hands of a Lebanese gems dealer in the eastern diamond-rich town of Kenema.

Police assistant inspector general Elizabeth Turay said the 18-year-old Alima Kamara died in a "suspected murder" case on Monday in Kenema, some 300 kilometres (190 miles) east of Freetown.

Lebanese diamond dealer Mohamed Basma, 40, and a friend of the dead girl, Victoria Jarret, were being questioned by police in Freetown, police officials said.

Police moved in to restore order and protect the shops based in downtown Freetown, where scores of youths rioted and looted electric power generators, mobile phones and an array of household goods.

"It is a great shock, what has been done to Lebanese shops," head of the 10,000-strong Lebanese community in Sierra Leone, Sani Hassaniyeh told AFP, adding all Lebanese outfits including schools had been closed as a result.

Sierra Leone has had a large Lebanese business community over the past four decades, since many settled there after independence from Britain in 1961.

Reuters

Thursday, 25 October 2007

Sierra Leone youths loot Lebanese stores over rape

FREETOWN, Oct 25 (Reuters) - Youths went on the rampage in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown on Thursday, attacking and looting Lebanese-owned shops after reports a Lebanese man had raped and killed a local woman.

Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds of young men who broke into shops in the impoverished and densely populated east end of Freetown, walking out with mobile phones, generators, TVs and radios, a Reuters reporter said.

The violence followed reports that a man of Lebanese origin in the diamond-trading town of Kenema raped a local woman who later died in hospital.

"You cannot kill our people ... We are going to kill the Lebanese," shouted one of the looters.

An 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002, left many youths without work in the dilapidated capital and other towns across the former British colony.

Lebanese and Indian shopkeepers, who dominate the trade in electrical and other goods in Sierra Leone, as in many other countries around West Africa, shuttered their shops as best they could before an uneasy calm returned.

Samir Hassaniyeh, the leader of the Lebanese community in Sierra Leone, said some traders had received threats and delayed opening their shops on Thursday, but later opened them thinking the danger had passed.

"When all the shops were open, a gang of youths attacked Lebanese business houses and made away with mobile phones, radios, generators and other items," Hassaniyeh told Reuters.

"Even the vice-president of the Lebanese community was beaten up and his entire shop was looted."

Hassaniyeh said the man accused of raping the woman in Kenema had been born in Sierra Leone. The police were awaiting autopsy results to establish the cause of her death.

The Analyst (Liberia)

Thursday, 25 October 2007

TRC Deploys Statement Takers

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) has disclosed that about 124 statement takers and 15 coordinators have been deployed throughout the 15 political sub-divisions of the country to start phase two of the statement taking process.

The Acting Chairman of the Commission, Cllr. Pearl Brown Bull, who has oversight responsibility for Montserrado and Margibi Counties, over 300 statements have already been collected here in Montserrado since October 16, 2007.

Commissioner Bull emphasized that the TRC is the better way forward for Liberia rather than a War Crime Court.

TRC release issued Tuesday said Commissioner Bull noted that the process is participatory because it recognizes every voice where Liberians are given the opportunity to tell their stories, unlike a War Crime Court, which only investigates very narrow charges against a select group of individuals, who only have the right to participate if their evidence is directly related to the charges brought against an accused.



She maintained that after sustained violence, impunity, hate, gross and grave abuses in Liberia, reconciliation is an essential component for peace, unity, development and national reintegration.

The Truth Commission is expected to commence public hearings by December this year, following the statement taking process, according to sources close to the Commission, which has a two year mandate to probe abuses in the country dating from 1978 to 2003.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Cllr. Jerome Verdier, leading a three-man delegation, and European Union technical expert are in Bong County to meet with county authorities as well as attend a Children Agenda Workshop.

ICRC Donates Books To UL Law School

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a week ago donated 50 textbooks on Criminal Law to the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law of the University of Liberia.

A statement from the organization said the donation is in addition to 50 books previously donated to the Law School last February on International Law. This new library will provide the law school with educational material related to International Law.

ICRC said the donation is part of a framework through which the ICRC intends to work with the law school for the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), aimed at strengthening educational initiatives towards international legal standards.

The ICRC in a statement issued relevant to the donation to the School that it will increase support in the area of education on International and Criminal Laws, help implement the principles and norms deriving from these two branches of law, and establish good working relationships between the two institutions.

In addition, the ICRC intends to undertake a number of academic activities with the purpose of disseminating International Humanitarian Law, and fostering its respect.

Among areas of interest are, incorporating IHL into postgraduate curricula, organizing moot court competitions, offering training in IHL as well as promoting the study IHL by hosting seminars, workshops and other fora.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**
 United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 October 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There are no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

Psychosocial Reconciliation, a Major Task for Koroma [opinion]

Olusegun Ogundeji

Freetown, Oct 24, 2007 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The psycho-social reconciliation of Sierra Leoneans, especially the younger ones who constitute about two-third of the country's population, should be the topmost priority on the agenda of the newly-enthroned government of Ernest Bai Koroma. Apart from fighting poverty, which has been identified as a trademark for virtually every African country, Koroma's task as the new leader for Sierra Leone today may have been compounded some years back when the country was overwhelmed by civil conflict. Irrespective of the yardstick for which the effort of the past administration at reconciling the Sierra Leonean system is measured, combined with the visible achievements in that regards, Koroma and his cabinet have no alternative but to take the baton from where ex-President Tejan Kabbah stopped.

Q&A-COTE D'IVOIRE: OPPOSITION LEADER PREDICTS DELAYED ELECTION

ABIDJAN, C"te d'Ivoire, Oct. 23, 2007 (IPS/GIN) – Ivorian opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, a former prime minister and deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has twice been barred from running for the presidency. Analysts are wondering whether Ouattara may have more luck in the next presidential election, which many hope will take place next year. In 1995 and 2000, he was kept off the ballot by a law excluding candidates with a parent of foreign nationality, or who had lived outside of Cote d'Ivoire for the preceding five years. Some people insinuated that Ouattara's mother was Burkinab, a claim that he has always denied. Migrants from neighbouring countries and their descendants had helped Cote d'Ivoire take advantage of brisk economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s, but they became unwelcome guests when the economy declined along with commodity prices. In this context, a contentious debate flared up over the definition of Ivorian nationality. Issues of nationality also underpinned the failed coup of 2002 and subsequent civil war that led the rebel Forces Nouvelles (New Forces) to seize control of northern C"te d'Ivoire, while the government of President Laurent Gbagbo retained control over the south.

Local Media – Newspaper

Vice President Boakai Lauds the UN

(Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Analyst, The Informer, The Informer and Heritage)

- At an elaborate occasion to mark the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations, Vice President Joseph Boakai lauded the organization for living up to its mandate to ensure war peace and stability.

- Vice president Boakai noted that UNMIL and the UN system have done well to restore peace and stability to Liberia, pointing out that it was remarkable that UNMIL was heavily involved in the reconstruction efforts of the Country.
- Deputy Foreign Minister William Bull paid tribute to the organization for restoring peace and sanity to chaotic situations around the world.

UNMIL Peacekeepers Rent Guest Rooms

(The News)

- According to *The News* newspaper correspondent, the Pakistani peacekeepers in Zorzor, Lofa County are allegedly using their Base for commercial purposes, charging guests US\$20 per night. The correspondent noted that non-governmental organizations operating in the County are the main users of the guest rooms because of comfort.

Russia Joins Campaigners for Liberia's Debt Relief

(The Informer)

- Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin announced at a World Bank Committee meeting that Russia was supportive of calls to cancel Liberia's debt with the international community especially with the several initiatives being taken by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to revive all sectors of the Country.

Government Dragged to Court

(Heritage and Liberian Express)

- According to correspondents, the Congress for Democratic Change the Liberty Party have filed a lawsuit against the Government, seeking the Supreme Court's interpretation of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's appointment of a City Mayor for Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County as the position must be contested in an election. The parties filed a petition of prohibition with Associate Justice Kabina Ja'neh requesting a writ of prohibition on the appointment of City Mayors because the President's move to appoint City Mayors is unconstitutional. President Sirleaf recently appointed a new City Mayor of Zwedru to replace Madam Ophelia Bleede who the Government found to be incapacitated.

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

Nigerians Access Investment Possibilities in Liberian Logging Industry

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, the head of a Nigerian business delegation Olusola Adenakusodeh said that the delegation was in Liberia to conclude arrangements to invest US\$100 million beginning with US\$10 million in the first year, in the logging sector because the Company has confidence in the security situation and the economy. He said unlike previous logging activities where trees were fell and exported, his company will manufacture furniture to provide training and job opportunities for over 5,000 Liberians.

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

Chinese Eye Liberian Trans-Highway System

- During a meeting with the Ministry of Transport officials yesterday, Chinese Ambassador Zhou Xiao said that the Chinese Government would increase its cooperation with the Liberian Government focusing on the Country's Trans-Country Highway system and in so doing, develops a road system throughout Liberia to propel national development and reconstruction in addition to the Country's health and education sectors which it is helping to revive.
- For his part, Transport Minister Jeremiah Sulunteh described the transport sector as the bedrock for economic development and improvement in Liberia, noting that all great assistance to health, education and agriculture would be meaningless without good road network in the Country.

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

Opposition Parties Sue Government

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

IRIN

Friday, 26 October 2007



Photo: [IRIN](#)

Gun-waving protesters in Bouake, Cote d'Ivoire

COTE D'IVOIRE: Government, former rebels thwarting arms inspections, UN says

DAKAR, 25 October 2007 (IRIN) - Arms inspections in Côte d'Ivoire are being refused "with increasing frequency" by former rebels and the national army and illegal arms trafficking has become a "worrying phenomenon", according to a recent report from the panel that monitors the country's UN arms embargo.

In the report, released publicly on 19 October, the UN panel said several military units routinely refuse inspections by international forces. It expressed particular concern that inspectors have not had access to the presidential guard since the embargo was imposed in 2004.

"Given the persistence of hindrances to embargo inspections, the Group deems it necessary to remind the two parties' military authorities... that the impartial forces cannot fulfil their monitoring mandate without these authorities' cooperation. This recommendation applies in particular to Republican Guard units," the report said.

The government of Cote d'Ivoire is appealing for a partial lifting of the arms embargo – authorities say in order to equip security forces to maintain law and order particularly in the run-up to elections in 2008. President Laurent Gbagbo made the pitch again on 26 September at the UN General Assembly.

The UN panel's report "acknowledges" the country's law enforcement needs but expresses doubt about the nature of purportedly protective gear bought in 2006 by the national police.

UN Security Council Resolution 1572 imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire in November 2004, one week after the national army attacked French forces in the country. Cote d'Ivoire has been volatile since it was divided into a rebel-held north and government-controlled south by a brief civil war in 2002.

The latest peace accord signed in March 2007 reunited the country but observers warn it is losing steam. The UN panel echoed a recent report by the UN Secretary-General in expressing concern over the lack of concrete steps toward peace, particularly in the area of disarmament.

"[T]he process of emerging from the crisis has not significantly progressed beyond symbolic acts," the 19 October report said.

According to the panel, at disarmament ceremonies for pro-government militias in the west in May 2007, "only 138 of the 1,027 weapons destroyed were actually serviceable." And at another disarmament event in Bouake about two months later, "the vast majority [of weapons burned] were old and probably not in working order."

The report said inspectors saw "an unspecified number" of mortars initially earmarked for destruction, "but UNOCI [the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire] has since lost all trace of them."

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