

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 of:

Monday, 27 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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NEW REGISTRAR FOR SPECIAL COURT



Lovemore Green Munlo

The Special Court for Sierra Leone last week announced that Mr. Lovemore Green Munlo, a Malawian national has accepted the UN Secretary General's offer to

become Registrar of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, a press release from the Special Court states.

This appointment is at the level of the United

Nations Assistant Secretary General.

Mr. Munlo, has served as Interim Registrar since the beginning of October 2005. Prior to joining

Cont. back page

From page 1

the Special Court, he served as Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania for a period of four years.

In taking up the post, Mr. Munlo said his vision is "to consolidate what the Court has already achieved and to move forward in providing efficient and professional support to Chambers, Prosecution and Defence."

This, he said would be done, "with a view to accomplishing the mandate of the court within the time frame set out in our Completion Strategy and in a way that pleases the

NEW REGISTRAR

Member States, the Management Committee, and the people of Sierra Leone".

Mr. Munlo comes to the Special Court with extensive legal experience. From May 1994 to October 2001, he was in private legal practice as a partner in the law firm of Green Munlo & Co. From September 1993 to May 1994, Mr. Munlo served as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Malawi, and from January 1992 to September 1993 he served as Deputy Minister of External Affairs. From 1990 to 1992, he was a judge of the High Court and Supreme Court

of Appeal, from 1987 to 1990 he served as Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 1984 to 1987 as Director of Public Prosecutions in the Attorney-General's Chamber.

Prior to 1984, he was a Senior State Advocate and State Advocate in the Attorney-General's Chamber.

Mr. Munlo received a Law Degree from the University of Malawi in 1976 and a Master's Degree (LLM) in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1989.

Voice

President Kabbah and the Special Court

PREVIOUS WEEKS witnessed altercations between the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, F.M. Carew over the appearance of his Excellency President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to testify before the court.

THE A.G reportedly objected to the court inviting his boss before it citing constitutional immunity.

THE DEVELOPMENT was once again an ample demonstration of the administration's policy inconsistency or lack of belief and commitment to its own policies.

REFERENCE TO constitutional immunity is a choice of defence which cannot be interpreted to mean a clock from action.

OVER AND above that, the AG's search for refuge (in the constitution of Sierra Leone) to hide the president from testifying before the Special Court is or was ill-advised on the ground that this same government had always sought to convince the people of Sierra Leone of the capacity and operations of the court is above our national laws- of which description the constitution falls.

ON THE flip side of this argument is the golden opportunity the government has just squandered to market the Special Court and exonerate itself of any hidden agenda in the creation of the court.

OF COURSE, stories abound of presidents of nations, small and big appearing before the courts of law. A president being jittery of putting up an appearance before a court could be sending the wrong signals that he has no regard for constitutionality or is having problems with his shadows.

SEVERAL MEDIA commentaries have noted and pointed to the concerns that the Special Court could eventually use its unrestricted powers to embarrass the state, people and government of Sierra Leone.

THE GOVERNMENT that brought the Special Court sat by as the court profiled itself as an institution that was unaccountable to anyone. It would appear that the 'Ides of March' are now here with us.

WHETHER THE views that the Special Court was created to avenge any or make political bush-training can be supported or not, it is time the SLPP and the government divert valuable energy to the genuine reconciliation efforts vital for peace, unity and national development.

TO BEGIN with, the SLPP, the commonest issue within its fold is disenchantment and decamping. Such development is only heightened because several key figures within the party are not genuinely sought to return into the fold beyond what a party chieftain recently referred to as playing to the media.

LET US return to Makeni, of all those who contested and lost positions, how many of them are currently circulating within the party's mechanism and not treated, instead, as the vanquished?

ASA medium, we require cohesion, peace, unity and progress within the SLPP because we believe, by extension, it will impart on national development.

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Exclusive

27 February 2006

Special Court Bombshell **Many Big Heads To Roll**

By Foday Fofana

By the look of things, the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone has reached its climax. That the

case of alleged war crimes of indicted, Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana, Allie Kondewa

and others has taken dramatic U-turn is unquestionable.

Contd. page 2

Many Big Heads To Roll

From front page

Defence Counsels for Chief Sam Hinga Norman have filed in a motion demanding that the President be brought in to clarify issues relating to his role in supporting the CDF during the war.

We have heard the express testimony of the British Lt. General Julian Richards who heads NATO's Rapid Deployment force the world over, confirming that Her Majesty's government gave Sierra Leone ten million pounds sterling (£10m) and another (£10m) from the European Union to flush out the rebels and restore democracy.

ILL ADVISED?

Peter Penfold did a lot to get Kabbah reinstated. You remember Sandline International or Executive Outcomes, ECOMOG, CDF-Kamajors, Gbethis, Donsos, Tamaboros and the Western Area Hunters?

Lt. Gen. Julian Richards stated at a press conference the other day at SLENA that the Twenty million pounds from the UK and the EU respectively was meant for the procurement of communications equipment, transport, food, medicare and other logistics- but never for arms and ammunition.

Besides, top government officials like cabinet ministers, Major General Buhari of the Federal Army of Nigeria will testify alongside the RUF indictees this week. Just like former US Ambassador John Hirsch who, like Peter Penfold played a major diplomatic role in getting Washington to grasp for once that instability was in Sierra Leone was not in the best interest at Uncle Sam.

By all indications, Chief Hinga Norman who was seen as "healthy, confident and positive... who had no intention to destabilise Sierra Leone; because if he wanted to he could have done it..."; according to the British Lt. General, might be let off the hook.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY!

We have no intention to prejudice the case of the UN Special Court. But at the same time, the people of Sierra Leone are of the opinion that Chief Norman does not deserve this kind of treatment from the SLPP who deny they had nothing to do in the roping of Chief Hinga Norman.

While it is true that relations between Kabbah and Norman slipped when the president was made to believe Norman was power conscious; we should not forget that Hinga Norman and others stuck their necks out for Sierra Leone's freedom. And if Lt. Gen. Julian Richards guarantees us today that Sierra Leone will never go down again and that there would be no more coup in this country; and the RSLAF will be the best army in Africa; it was because there were people like Norman.

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/hot_news_5

OBASANJO ABOUT TO HAND TAYLOR TO LIBERIA ?

Monday February 27, 2006

COCORIOKO has been receiving stunning reports all weekend that Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo may have started setting the machinery in motion to at last remove the albatross from around his own neck--Return former Liberian President Charles Taylor to his country.

The usually reliable sources , one of whom is at the United Nations, but prefers anonymity at this time, told this newspaper that Obasanjo may have stood down from his resistance over the issue of surrendering Taylor , due to extreme pressures from the U.S. , the international community and civil organizations within Nigeria .

According to the UN source, President Obasanjo has been looking for a better face-saving approach to turning Taylor over without damaging his self-respect after earlier vowing that he will not bow to pressures from even the U.S. He is said to be planning to use as his excuse the return to normalcy and constitutional government to Liberia .It would be a perfect excuse for Obasanjo and it will not breach his commitment to provide asylum for Taylor while efforts were being made to find lasting peace in Liberia.

If the report turns out to be correct, it will also be a fulfillment of Obasanjo's persistent pronouncements that he will hand Taylor over only to a constitutionally-elected government of Liberia., in which case the President will not lose face to colleagues like South African President, Thabo Mbeki, Bourkina Faso Leader Blaise Campaore and even Ghana's Kuffour who have been solidly supporting Obasanjo on his earlier resolve to continue hosting Charles Taylor for as long as it takes while peace was being sought in Liberia.

What will happen after Taylor is handed over to Liberia will purely be the responsibility of newly-elected Liberian President , Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. It will place a tremendous burden on Mrs Sirleaf .She will either hand Taylor over to the Special Court in Sierra Leone where he is a wanted man for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity and please the U.S . and the international community , or give him sanctuary and risk facing the wrath of the international community and civil and human rights groups within and without Liberia.

At this stage, Mrs. Sirleaf has not given any firm commitment to honoring the demands of the U.S. and the international community to hand Taylor over to the Special Court. She has instead been saying that her priority at the moment was restoring national unity and national reconciliation to Liberia.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 Feb 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

25/02/2006

Tough task for Liberia's 'mother'

By Mike Wooldridge

BBC world affairs correspondent, in River Cess County, south-eastern Liberia

They gave Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a wildly enthusiastic welcome at Cestos, this county's main town - right down to the hen's egg and the lock and key presented by the local men and the two live chickens by local women. The egg signified the purity of their hearts - a gesture of particular symbolism in this country still emerging from 14 years of civil war. The lock represented the state of their impoverished county and the key the president and her supposed ability to make life better for the people of River Cess.

LIBERIA: Orphanages accused of child trafficking

MONROVIA, 24 Feb 2006 (IRIN) - Liberian children are being sold for adoption in dubious circumstances and others are living in sub-standard orphanages, according to rights groups in the West African nation.

Some institutions, while purporting to help orphans, are charging huge sums of money for adoptions, the National Child Rights Observation Group (NACROG), said in a report this week. NACROG, comprising representatives of local and international NGOs, civil society, and several ministries, is asking the government to investigate three orphanages and calling for a halt to all adoptions from Liberia.

International Clips on West Africa**Kabbah Urges West African Investment Forum**

by Sahr Musa Yamba

Freetown, Feb 24, 2006 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in his address at the West African development forum in Abuja, Nigeria, which took place from the 20th to 22nd February, has urged the Commonwealth Business Council to improve business in the sub-region. The Commonwealth Business Council is responsible for the initiative of collaborating with West African Governments to organize the West African Investment Forum, which creates an opportunity for policy dialogue geared towards identifying options, and proffering policy measures aimed at enhancing trade and investment in the sub-region.

Local Media – Radio Veritas

President Undertakes another Round of Nationwide Tour

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday travelled to Rivercess and Sinoe counties in continuation of her tour of the country to ascertain development needs of the people. She has already visited Bong, Nimba, River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

UN Human Rights Expert Calls for Employment of Foreign Judges

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, United Nations Independent Human Rights Expert Dr. Charlotte Abaka stressed the need to employ foreign judges as part of interim measures to assist the judicial system of the country.
- She urged the government to prioritize reform activities at the judiciary.
- Dr. Abaka further said that ex-combatants who did not go through the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration program remained a real threat to regional stability.
- Meanwhile, Chief Justice-designate Cllr. Johnny Lewis declared that international judges will be prevented from working as judges in Liberia because they were ignorant to the laws of the land. He said that international aid to the judiciary should not tow the lines of having foreign judges work in the courts.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

International Donors Ask Liberians to Lead Rebuilding Processes

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, members of the multi-donor mission to Liberia admonished Liberians to take the lead in promoting stability and reconstruction of their country.
- The mission which included members of the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Internally Displaced Division (OCHA-IDD), pledged sustained assistance of their respective governments and agencies towards the resettlement of IDPs and rebuilding of Liberia. The group urged the government to provide adequate protection vulnerable groups such as the IDPs, women and children.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

Opposition Political Party Welcomes President's Proposal for National Youth Service Corp

- In a press statement, the opposition Liberty Party said it welcomed President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's proposal to establish a national youth service corps program under which young professionals will serve the nation upon graduation from tertiary institutions.

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

Agriculture Minister to Open Agriculture Projects in Each County

- Taking over as Minister of Agriculture yesterday, Dr. Christopher Toe said that he would design a mechanism to establish major agriculture projects in each county of the country as a measure to ensure food security.

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.



Independent website providing information and documentation on international justice

Identification :

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VERSION FRANCAIS

Africa Special Court for Sierra Leone : The Defence

Chief Norman gets top-notch defense


Article length : 1 page

Kelvin Lewis, Freetown
27 February 2006

Complete access to this article is reserved for identified subscribers who have taken the "Archives" or "Letter + Archives" formulae, but it can also be purchased as a single unit. Here is the overview :

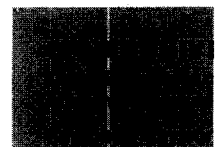
Samuel Hinga Norman is currently the most well-known defendant standing trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He is also the most controversial. Three years after his arrest, the former head of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) kicked off his defense with some high caliber witnesses.

As Chief Norman, former internal affairs minister under the current president of Sierra Leone, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, hobbled along somewhat painfully with a walking stick to take his seat as the first defense witness before this semi-international, UN-backed tribunal, he drew a lot of sympathetic mumb...

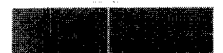
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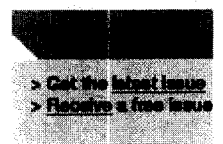
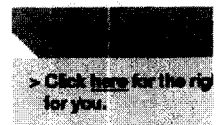
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Sierra Leon



Chief No gets top

Chief Norman gets top-notch defense... The former head of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) kicked off his defense with some high caliber witnesses...

Patriotic Vanguard website

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=412

Bench Warrant For Charles Margai !

- Friday 24 February 2006.

By our Freetown Correspondent

The relationship between Charles Margai(photo) whose father was founding member of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party and the incumbent government is becoming more acrimonious.

Magistrate Shyllon of the Freetown Magistrate's Court No. 1 has issued a Bench Warrant for the leader of the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change Charles Margai.

Charles is standing trial for riotous conduct and related charges, for an incident that took place some time ago in Bo, south of the country. Charles and VP Solomon Berewa coincidentally met at an anniversary of Christ the King College Secondary School which is an alma mater of the two. It ended in a riot in which it was alleged that VP Berewa was molested. Charles and other people were arrested. He was charged to court and was attending court in Bo. The matter has been transferred to Freetown from the High Court in Bo but has taken a new twist with the issuance of a Bench Warrant.

The prosecution has complained that Charles Margai and the other accused persons have absented themselves from court without any valid reason, which he described as contempt of court. He applied for a Bench Warrant which was issued.



Landmark meeting for Ivory Coast

By James Copnall
BBC News, Abidjan

Major political and rebel leaders will hold talks in the Ivory Coast for the first time since a 2002 uprising.

President Laurent Gbagbo, opposition leaders Henri Konan Bedie and Alassane Ouattara, and rebel leader Guillaume Soro meet in the capital Yamoussoukro.

The four rarely speak and have not met on Ivorian soil since Mr Soro launched a rebellion in September 2002, which split the country.

The meeting is aimed at achieving peace among the four important leaders.

Work out differences

President Laurent Gbagbo, the former head of state, Henri Konan Bedie, and the opposition politician Alassane Ouattara, have been squabbling for power for over 10 years.

The fourth member of the group, Guillaume Soro, leads the rebellion which cut the country in half more than three years ago.

Monday's meeting, organised by Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, is an attempt to get the four most important political leaders to sit down and work out their differences.

The leaders have met several times in peace summits over the last three years - but never before on Ivorian soil.

The prime minister's offices says the Yamoussoukro meeting, which should finish on Tuesday, is an attempt to get the Ivorian political class to take control of the Ivorian peace process.

All the same, the guideline should remain last year's Pretoria peace agreement and the UN resolution 1633.

The three-year long civil war has hurt the reputation, stability and economy of a country once known as the "African miracle".

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/africa/4753862.stm>