

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



Commercial art in Aberdeen

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Friday, 27 June 2008

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

Friday, 27 June 2008

## State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone- *HRCSL report out*

**T**he Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has released their first human rights report entitled the state of the Human Rights Reports in the country

Explaining about the report to the press yesterday at the Commission's headquarters, its chairman Mrs Jamesina King disclosed that the commission covered activities from January- December 2007 as they looked at the achievements, challenges and state of human rights in the country.

The Commission observed that despite the provision of the right to life as provided for in Article 6 of the international covenant on civil and political rights, article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 4 of the African Charter as restated in section 15 and 16 of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone, there are still unacceptably high rates of infant and maternal mortality. The report states that UNDP human development report 2007 quoting maternal mortality at 1800 per 100,000 live births and infant mortality at 170 per 1,000.

The commission also described as slow the response of the police to a number of armed robbery in the capital leaving a sense of insecurity undermining enjoyment of the right to life, liberty and security

of the person. "The failure or delay by the police and courts in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases involving deprivation of other forms of property also seriously threatens this right" the commission stated.

The Human Rights Commission also noted that the seditious libel laws in the public order Act of 1965 were used by the government and reports of some paramount chiefs preventing opposition parties from openly campaigning or holding rallies in their chiefdoms

Domestic and sexual violence continued to be a significant source of human Rights violations during the course of the year for which they received many complaints most of which were referred to the family support unit of the police which generally responded well and took action. They also took in to consideration as they put it the controversial practice of female genital cutting as there were reports of politicians sponsoring mass initiation.

Across the country, the commission reported, children continue to be detained with adults in contravention of the

international minimum standards on juvenile justice and national law.

"This situation is due to the fact that in the whole of Sierra Leone there are only two juvenile remand

*Continued on Page 7*

New Democrat (Liberia)  
Thursday, 26 June 2008

L-12 (N.U.14)

Witness:

# RUF-Captured UN Guns Landed In His Convoy



UN PEACEKEEPERS IN SIERRA LEONE

One of the many RUF commanders then operated in Liberia, claiming he was a close confidante of former president Charles Taylor and a close operative, is continuing his fight against Mr Taylor, detailing captured UN equipment, including guns, were seized and used in Ta



FORMER PRES. CHARLES TAYLOR

motorcade. He said weapons were in White Flower, from where they ported them across the border for Leone's war. He said UN peacekeeping soldiers captured in 2000 by RUF



# Captured UN Guns Landed In His Convoy

rebels, were stripped naked and their belongings looted. He said RUF commanders thereafter transferred some of the equipment to Liberia, and delivered to Benjamin Yeaten. Captured UN troops were released in 2000 following Mr Taylor's intervention.

Witness TF1-375, protected and therefore unidentified by name, went into tales of executions amongst the accused's fighters, with one key commander, known as Superman, ordered executed because Mr Taylor suspected him of visiting the US embassy here.

is signed by the witness, it will be confidentially retained.

Pros: Mr. Witness, you mentioned Bockarie going into exile, did you have any communication with him after he left Liberia?

Wit: Yes. Bockarie called on Yeaten's satellite phone and yeaten refused to answer the phone for the first time. He told me to answer and tell him he was not around. When Bockarie knew I was the one talking, he said oh you were now a big man. He said to me that he was really suffering and that he wanted me to

Pros: Do you recall when this phone call took place?

Wit: 2002

Pros: Did Bockarie explain what he meant by suffering and nobody caring about him?

Wit: yes, he even spoke of the diamonds that he crossed with. he said Taylor took the diamonds and said he will support him but he did not.

Pros: Did you attend any meetings where Taylor was?

Wit: yes

Pros: What kind of meetings?

keepers were taken hostage in 2000

Pros: Do you recall what year the peacekeepers were captured?

Wit: 2000

Pros: Do you recall whether it was dry or rainy season?

Wit: I cant recall but i think it was in the dry season

pros: How did you learn of this incident?

Wit: I was in Kolahun with Yeaten at that time. We were there, we heard a radio operator by the name of Motiga, when Motiga came to Yeaten under the barry and said there was fighting going on between the UN and RUF, he said he just received a call from Issa Sesay for Yeaten to put on his satellite phone. That was the time i got to know about that that.

Wit: I was so confused and i wish i were there. So i met Yeaten and told him i wanted to visit some people in Makeni.

Yeaten said he also wanted me to go and see what was happening. So that day, he gave us two yamaha bikes to go.

Pros: When you say us, who do you mean?

Wit: Myself and Small Jr used one bike, Mohamed Foday and another person used the other bike.

Pros: What happened next?

Wit: He told us to go to Sierra Leone to see what was going on and report to him.

Pros: So what happened?

Wit: We left. We crossed the border, went to the Moa River, put the bikes in the Ferry, went to Kono and then to Makeni

pros: What did you see when you arrived in Makeni?

Wit: I saw so many UN personal, naked at the MP headquarters, where the MP Commander Kaisoko was.

Pros: Did you learn the nationalities of the peace keepers?

Wit: They were the Zambian contingent

Pros: What happened then?

Wit: When they captured the peacekeepers, i saw them at the MP headquarters.

When i got there, i saw Issa Sesay, Gbao,

Pros: When was the next time you spoke to Yeaten?

Wit: I used Komba's radio to capture Motiga and told him what was happening. he said he was going to call Issa Sesay and talk to him.

Pros: Where did you see Komba Gbunde dehma?

Wit: Ina town called Makoth, between Makeni to Lunsar, i think 8-10 mile from Makeni.

pros: What happened after you spoke to Yeaten?

Wit: He told me he will talk to Issa and that i should try and get back to Liberia.

Pros: What did you do then?

Wit: I got some gas and went back to Liberia

pros: Do you know if the peace keeper had weapons when they were captured?

Wit: yes, they were well equipped.

Pros: How do you know that?

Wit: When they captured them, they captured 52 cars.

Pros: Anything else?

Wit: yes, they captured armoured cars.

Pros: Do you know who led that operation?

Wit: yes, Gbao, Kallon and Komba, eve Issa was there.

Pros: Do you know who was in charge of RUF at that time?

Wit: yes, Issa Sesay

Pros: What happened to the weapons and vehicles that were captured?

Wit: they distributed the vehicles to the various commanders and they were trying to take the weapons to Magburaka some went to Kono

Pros: Do you know if all the weapons stayed in Sierra Leone?

Wit: Not all of them stayed in Sierra Leone

pros: Tell us about the ones that did not remain in Sierra Leone?

Wit: When the UN peacekeepers were released, one MZT was taken to Liberia and it was used in the President's convoy. I was called Mobile 5. They crossed with the mortars as well and were handed over



UN PEACEKEEPERS IN SIERRA LEONE

The testimony, continuing, portrays Mr Taylor's White Flower residence as an arsenal from where weapons were taken and transported into Sierra Leone. The witness said he was responsible for some of the weapons transport and that he personally communicated with Mr Taylor on his (Taylor's) satellite phone. He offered details of the contacts, including Benjamin Yeaten's phone number, 06510244.

He said there was a feeling of abandonment amongst key commanders such as Sam Bockarie, then in exile in Burkina Faso with his belongings looted in Monrovia.

(Excerpts)

Pros: Thank you your honour. Mr. Witness, just before we broke, I had asked you how you knew Taylor had a satellite phone, you said because you had his direct numbers, please answer this question only yes or no, did you ever speak to Taylor on satellite phone.

Wit: yes

Pros: Do you know Yeaten's cell number?

Wit: Yes, 06510244.

Pros: I will ask that the witness to be given a blank piece of paper and after writing on it, I'll tender it in evidence. Do you recall what your own number was in Liberia?

Wit: yes.

Pros: Would you please write it on the paper in front of you.

Witness writes his number.

Pros: I'll like it first to be shown to the judges, then defence counsel and then to myself. May this piece of paper be marked with an MFI number confidential please.

Jude: It will be marked MFI-1

Def: I think it ought to be dated and signed by the witness.

Judge: Thank you Mr. Munyard. Once it

let Yeaten know that.

Pros: Do you recall what year this was?

Wit: Yes, we first communicated in 2001.

Pros: Did you talk to him after that?

Wit: yes

Pros: How many times?

Wit: I think i spoke to him 3 times

Pros: Do you know where he was calling from?

Wit: yes

Pros: Where?

Wit: Burkina Faso

Pros: how did you know?

Wit: he told me when we spoke

pros: In the other conversation, can you remember what he said?

Wit: yes, i can remember some. In early 2002, he had an electronic machine that prepares ID Cards. Yeaten asked for the machine and Salamin said it was with Bickarie. Yeaten said he wanted that machine. He wanted to prepare computer ID Cards for the ATU. Yeaten told him say how do you think we can get this machine. Martin told Yeaten that Bockarie's wife Hawa had the machine. So when they asked Hawa, she called Bockarie in Burkina faso and told him. So when Bockarie called, he spoke to me complaining that the people were not helping him and so nobody should touch that machine.

Pros: Do you remember anything else that you spoke to Bockarie about?

Wit: yes, the third time was when he was in Ivory Coast. At the time he was there, he called. I think at that time, we were on the president's farm. He talked about the machine. He said when he was in Burkina, nobody cared about him. He said when he crossed to Ivory Coast, he looted a machine, now they want him to hand it over. he said he was not going to take any orders from the Liberian government, he was very angry.

Wit: Preparation of front line meetings and also a meeting on his farm when Bockarie came back to Liberia

Pros: What do you mean by frontline meetings?

Wit: He himself as chief or the armed forces will plan the war

pros: Where did these meetings take

place?

Wit: At the Mansion and at his house White Flower

Pros: Do you recall the years when these meetings took place?

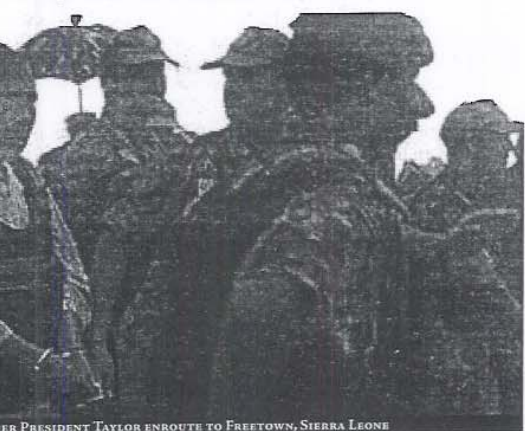
Wit: 2002 and early 2003

Pros: Did you ever receive an assignment to return to Sierra Leone?

Wit: yes

Pros: When was that?

Wit: the first one was before the UN peace



FLASHBACK: FORMER PRESIDENT TAYLOR ENROUTE TO FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

keepers were taken hostage in 2000

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Wit: yes, they were well equipped.

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Wit: yes, Gbao, Kallon and Komba, eve Issa was there.

Pros: Do you know who was in charge of RUF at that time?

Wit: yes, Issa Sesay

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Wit: they distributed the vehicles to the various commanders and they were trying to take the weapons to Magburaka some went to Kono

Pros: Do you know if all the weapons stayed in Sierra Leone?

Wit: Not all of them stayed in Sierra Leone



New Democrat (Liberia)  
Thursday, 26 June 2008

# White Flower Crime Links

## US Embassy Confirms Joint Search

The United States Embassy here has admitted that it undertook a joint criminal investigation exercise led by the Liberian National Police (LNP) at the White Flower home of former President Charles Taylor Sunday.

The exercise has sparked rancor amongst Mr Taylor's loyalists, threatening that future attempts will be met with stiff resistance.

The US Embassy told this paper Tuesday that the joint search with local security, armed with a writ from a court, had nothing to do with the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"The exercise Sunday was a joint criminal investigation led



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OUTGOING US AMBASSADOR DONALD BOOTH

# White Flower Crime Links

by the LNP and it has nothing to do with the Special Court," an official of the US Embassy Public Diplomatic Section said Tuesday.

Asked for further comment, the official who insisted that this paper attributed his comments to the US Embassy, meaning it is mission's official position, said the US could not comment on ongoing criminal investigation.

Last Sunday, US Marines led LNP officers stormed Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence for what is now known as the reconstruction of a crime scene.

At first many thought the search was directed at Mr. Taylor, who is currently on trial in The Hague for alleged war crimes committed in neighboring Sierra Leone.

But it has now been established that the Sunday search is more linked to his son, on trial in the US, and not the father's.

Chucky Taylor, Jr., is facing charges for human rights violations while he served as a feared commander in his father's Special Security Service, with allegations that he executed several persons.

A witness in The Hague, testifying against his father, said he saw the Chucky executed a number of

Liberians and Sierra Leoneans. The search, authorized by a write from a Liberian court, may have been conduct to gather material and other evidence against Chucky, also on trial for US immigration violations.

Last Saturday morning individuals believed to be US Marines were seen mapping up the Congo Town White Flower home of Mr. Taylor for what is now known as the reconstruction of a crime scene.

The men believed to be US Marines mounted an instrument like a barometer, usually used for survey purposes, directly opposite the White Flower pointing towards Sinkor and later this writer who first mistook them as conducting a kind of research saw them descending the hill leading to Pako Island behind White Flower and also mounted the instruments there pointing towards the Boulevard.

Charles Taylor Jr., is currently standing trial at a US Court in Florida for alleged human rights abuses. Under the Universal Law, some courts in countries such as the United States, Spain, UK, etc, have universal jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by their citizens or others in foreign countries.

—Othello B. Garblah



The News (Liberia)  
Thursday, 26 June 2008

# JOINT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION LEADS TO TAYLOR'S HOUSE

**T**he NEWS has learnt that a joint criminal investigation led by the Liberian police in conjunction with American investigators is taking place in Monrovia, in which a search is required of former Liberian President Charles Taylor's residence.

According to a well-placed source, the U.S. Embassy cannot make any comment because the investigation is on-going.

But the source said the joint Criminal investigation is independent of the Sierra Leone's War Crimes Court sitting in The



*Former President Charles Taylor*  
Hague where former president Taylor is being tried for bearing the greatest responsibility of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone.

The source did not say the nature of the crime for which the joint investigation is taking place.

Liberian police officers along with men believed to be United States Marines allegedly searched Taylor's house in Congo Town on Sunday, sparking off protest from Taylor's loyalists.

A spokesman for the Taylor's family, Sando Johnson claimed that the search was illegal since Sunday is a non-official working day, although the investigators took along with them a Sheriff and a writ from a Liberian court.

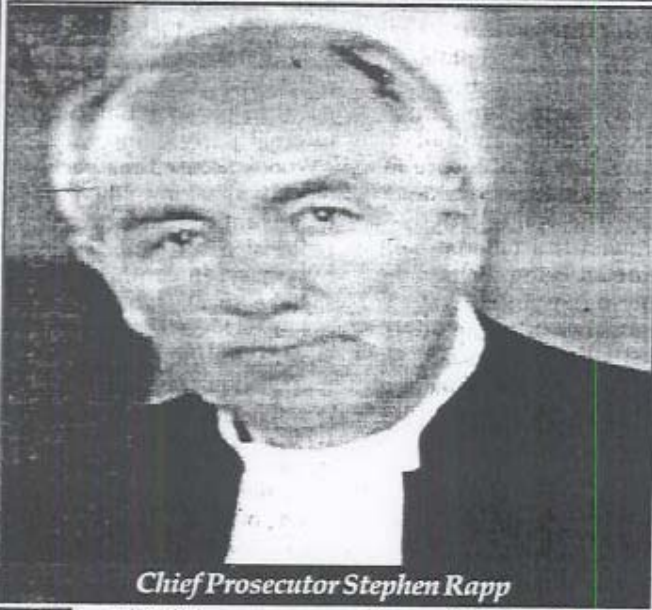


Three US Embassy Vans leaving "White Flower" after searching Taylor's house (Photo: Public Agenda)

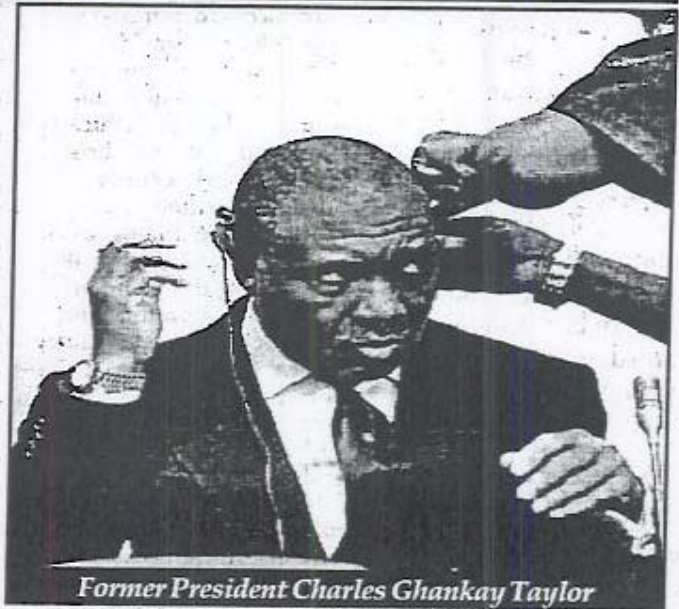
The Monitor (Liberia)  
Thursday, 26 June 2008

# Court denies search...

## At Taylor's 'White Flower'



Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp



Former President Charles Ghankay Taylor

The Chief Prosecutor in the ongoing trial of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor, Stephen Rapp has denied that the recent search carried out

at the residence of the former Liberian leader was done upon the instruction of Special the Court sitting in the Hague, The Netherlands. The spoke person of the

Special Court, Peter Anderson quoting Mr. Rapp recently said "the search was not done by the special court or at the request of the special court." Mr. Anderson is

currently in the Sierra Leonean capital, Free Town.

The family of the former Liberian leader is disturbed after heavily

See Story on Page 6



## Court denies

armed US Officials searched the Taylor residence on Sunday, 22 June.

Former Bomi County lawmaker and spokesperson of Taylor's family, disclosed that, "The men came to the house in US embassy vehicles on Sunday with heavily armed national police officers and took the keys from the security guards at gunpoint."

According to the family, the Americans brandished a search warrant from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where the former Liberian president is currently on trial for war crimes, but the court has denied any involvement.

"They pushed the security man out and went in. They were there for 40 minutes while the police officers prevented us from entering to see what they were doing," Johnson said.

During the search a huge crowd gathered in front of the residence, and began to boo the Americans according to eye witness account. A lawyer for the family said the men showed him a warrant from the court, but that document must be found and disputed to verify the legality of the search.

Both the American embassy in Monrovia and the Minister of justice, Philip A. Z. Banks are yet to comment on the report.

Charles Taylor's party, the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP), reacted with fury to the search on.

"I do not understand why the government will allow a bunch of gangsters to do what they feel like in our country," Cyril Allen, former chairperson of the NPP, told a local radio station.

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**26 June 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Supreme Court Halts Economic Sabotage Case**

*(The Informer, Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The Analyst, The News)*

- The Supreme Court of Liberia through its Justice-in Chambers, Cllr. Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie on Wednesday placed a stay order on further proceedings into the ongoing Economic Sabotage Case. Justice Wolokollie, according to newspapers, mandated Judge Samuel Geevon-Smith of the Criminal Court-C to halt all proceedings into the case until otherwise ordered.
- The mandate follows a petition for the Writ of Certiorari filed by state lawyers. A Writ of Certiorari is a complaint file against a presiding judge on allegation of prejudicial error on his part in a given case.
- The development came in the wake of Tuesday's ruling by Judge Smith defeating claims by state prosecutors that jurors in the trial were being tempered with.
- Former Finance Minister Lusinee Kamara and his principal deputies are on trial at the Criminal Court C for allegedly stealing over three million dollars in public funds during their tenure in the transitional arrangement.

**Government, UNMIL Embark On Anti-Rape Awareness Campaign**

*(The News, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer)*

- In the wake of the alarming increase in rape cases in Liberia, the Liberian government in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will this Saturday host a major concert at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, near Monrovia to launch what they called "Stop-Rape Campaign" in the country.
- Speaking Wednesday at UNMIL regular press briefing, Deputy Information Minister Gabriel Williams said rape remains the most frequently committed crime in Liberia that needed to be discouraged and stopped. Minister Williams pointed out that Liberia will not realize any sustainable development if rape continues to permeate the society. The Deputy Information Minister warned that those who will be found guilty of rape would be dealt with severely. The Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Liberia, Ms. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu who also spoke at the press briefing also acknowledged the increase in rape cases and said it was time that every Liberian gets involve in the campaign of eradicating rape in the country. Ms. Mensa-Bonsu pledged UNMIL's full support to the government of Liberia as it embarks on the campaign to eradicate the act from Liberia.

**Liberia Responds to Global Food Crisis - Increases Prices of Staple and Gasoline**

*(The Analyst)*

- The government has announced new prices for rice and petroleum products on the Liberian market. The new retail price for a hundred pound bag of rice is likely to be increased from US\$31 to around US\$35 while the pump price of a gallon of gasoline has been hiked to US\$4.55.
- Accordingly, the increment in the prices of rice and gasoline is in line with the government's policy of availability of the commodities on the local market and is in response to global commodity prices increases.



- In the face of the increment, particularly in the price of rice, there is a general consensus that the real solution to sustainable availability and affordability of rice is an increase in domestic production.

### **Two Men Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Gang Rape**

(The Inquirer)

- The Criminal Court-A at the Temple of Justice has sentenced two men to life imprisonment after they were found guilty of the crime of murder in Monrovia. The men - Isaac Caar and Alphonso Kerkula - gang raped a 14-year old girl who later died.
- The government and UNMIL have intensified a nationwide anti-rape campaign intended to sensitize people on the danger rape poses in the country.

### **Armed Men Attacked Detained Senator's Home**

(Liberian Express)

- The Liberian Express newspaper reported security concerns that the Duport Road residence of Senator Roland Kaine was attacked by unidentified armed men Wednesday who made away with an unspecified amount of money and several items. The Senator's wife was said to have been severely flogged by the armed men and Police have made no arrest in the incident. Senator Roland Kaine is among 14 suspects supposedly linked to the killing of 19 people in a dispute over farmland along the frontier with Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties.

### **Joint Criminal Investigation Leads to Taylor's House – US Embassy Confirms Search**

(New Democrat, The News)

- The News newspaper reports that a joint criminal investigation led by the Liberian National Police (LNP) in conjunction with American investigators is taking place in Monrovia, in which a search is required of former Liberian President Charles Taylor's residence. Quoting a well-placed source, the Paper said the U.S. Embassy cannot make any comment because the investigation is on-going. But the New Democrat reports that the United States Embassy near Monrovia has confirmed it undertook a joint Criminal investigation exercise led by the LNP at Mr. Taylor's Residence.
- The News newspaper however quotes a source as saying that the search was independent of the Sierra Leone's War Crimes Court sitting in The Hague. Liberian police officers along with men believed to be United States Marines allegedly searched Taylor's house in Congo Town on Sunday, sparking off protest from Taylor's loyalists. A spokesman for the Taylor family, Sando Johnson claimed that the search was illegal since Sunday is a non-official working day, although the investigators took along with them a Sheriff and a writ from a Liberian court.

### **BWI ROTC Instructor Goes to Court for Rape**

(Daily Observer)

- A 38-year-old man, James T. Sayon, has allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl in the bedroom of the girl's father's residence on the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) campus in Kakata, Margibi County. According to the father of the victim, Darent Jarwu, a medical report from the MSF Benson Hospital proved that the victim was tampered with even though suspect Sayon denies raping the 15 year old. Reports from the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police (LNP) confirmed that the crime was committed and that the perpetrator had been charged with rape. The LNP Line Manager, Chief Inspector, Gerald Holder said the police have completed their investigation and sent Sayon to court. The City Solicitor of the Kakata Magisterial Court, Randolph Suah said the suspect is expected to appear in court this week.

### **LMC Launches second Media Monitoring Performance Report**

(The Inquirer, The News, The Informer)

- The Liberia Media Centre (LMC) has launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> findings of the Transitional Justice Reporting Audit stating that the Liberian media has shown strong interest in the coverage of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Hearings and former President Charles Taylor trial in The Hague. Presenting the findings, the Executive Director of the Liberia Media Centre, Lawrence Randall, urged the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia to reconsider its approach to issues regarding the media and said the media unit of the Truth Commission is acutely under-resourced and needs concrete support to carry out its functions. Mr. Randall then recommended that support for local media coverage of the TRC should be provided if and when necessary.

### **Youth Group Launches US\$20,000 Library Project**

(The News)

- The Old Matadi Youth for Progressive Action (OMAYPA) has launched a US\$20,000 library project. The Secretary General of Omaypa, Isaac Nyantte told reporters that the construction of the library in the community was intended to ensure that residents of the area have easy access to do their research. Mr. Nyantte said due to the huge population, coupled with the absence of a library facility in the community, his group decided to embark on the library project.
- Information Minister Dr. Laurence Bropleh, speaking at the launch of the program, commended the youth group for being farsighted to have decided to construct the library in their community. Dr. Bropleh expressed the hope that the library would greatly help to change the minds and attitudes of youths in the community

## **Radio Summary**

### **Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

#### **Police, UNMIL Launch Manhunt for Suspected Killer**

- Police and UNMIL personnel in Bong County have launched a man-hunt for the alleged killer of a motorcyclist, Momo Zayzay.
- In an interview, the Commander of the Bong County Police Detachment, Col. Nelson Freeman said 200 security officers along with some citizens are searching for the perpetrator.
- Col. Freeman said preliminary investigation identified the perpetrator as Roland Kwenah and vowed that the search operation would continue until Roland is arrested.
- Meanwhile authorities in the county have announced US\$500 bounty for anyone with information leading to the arrest of the perpetrator.

#### **Local High School Found Guilty of Examination Malpractice**

- The Ganta Methodist High School in Nimba County has been found guilty for collecting “flexibility fees” from its students.
- “Flexibility fees” are monies collected by some school authorities to aid students cheat during public exams.
- Education authorities in the county say they found the school guilty of collecting flexibility and mock fees during the conduct of the last exams of the West Africa Examination Council.
- This followed a probe which established that the school’s administration illegally collected US\$10 and LD\$250 from each of the 120 students that sat the exams.

#### **LMC Wants Truth Commission Re-define Media Approach**

- The Liberia Media Centre (LMC) has urged the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia to reconsider its approach to issues regarding the media.
- Speaking during the presentation of a report on the review of Media Coverage of the Transitional Justice Process in Liberia, the Executive Director of the Liberia Media Centre, Lawrence Randall, said the media unit of the truth commission is acutely under-resourced and needs concrete support to carry out its functions.
- The review focused on how the media is covering the TRC and the trial of detained former President Charles Taylor, taking place in The Hague.
- Mr. Randall then recommended that support for local media coverage of the TRC should be provided if and when necessary.



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

### **Ministry of Education Discloses Plan to Construct Three Schools**

- The Ministry of Education has announced it would begin the construction of three schools around the country by the end of June.
- Deputy Education Minister for Administration, Hawa Goll-Kotchi said the schools would be a bilateral assistance from the government of the People's Republic of China.
- Mrs. Kotchi said an ultra modern senior high school and two junior high schools would be constructed.
- According to her, the three schools project will cost the Chinese government more than US\$2 million.

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

### **Population Planning Retreat Opens Today in Kakata**

- A release issued in Monrovia said the Population Policy Coordination Unit at the Planning Ministry collaboration with UN population agency (UNFPA) will today begin a three-day retreat of stakeholders and population related program.
- The Planning Ministry said the retreat is to finalize the Population Policy Action Plan and the Coordination Strategy for Policy implementation.

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