

**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:

Thursday, 27 March 2008

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

Bishop Biguzzi Comforts Amputees / <i>Spectator</i>	Pages 3-4
30,000 Ammos Seized at the Sierra Leone/Liberia Border / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 5

International News

2 Candidates, 2 Destinies / <i>New Democrat</i>	Pages 6-7
Taylor Trial Resumes Monday / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 8
Memorial Service for Chief Hinga Norman / <i>Patriotic Vanguard</i>	Page 9
Presidential Militia Leader and Former AFRC-RUF Killer... / <i>The New People</i>	Page 10
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 11-12

Spectator

Thursday, 27 March 2008

Bishop Biguzzi comforts amputees



By Osman Larry Fofanah

Having initiated the establishment of the Holy Spirit Hospital in Masuba, Makeni, the Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni, His Lordship, George Biguzzi, in partnership with the Don Gnocchi Foundation in Italy, has facilitated the extension of this hospital with the opening of a microsurgery unit for the protection of the hand of the amputee. The microsurgery unit, according to report, was officially inaugurated on Easter Monday, 24th April by His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma.

Reports say the Bishop himself has been carrying out a host of development programmes in the Northern Province, including the improvement of the social and health conditions of the disabled,

His Lordship George Biguzzi
feeding the needy, sending of Christians
and even government military officers

continued page 2

Bishop Biguzzi comforts amputees

From front page

for further studies abroad, among many other things. PC. Bai Shebora Kasanga II identifies him as a humanitarian figure that cares very little about material ownership. As a servant of God, the Bishop in his statement underscored the fact that the priority of a Christian missionary is to feed the poor and heal the sick. This attribute, he said, originally emanated from the Lord Jesus Christ while sending his Disciples to spread the gospel. He thanked the Government of Sierra Leone for giving the mission a duty-free concession after importing first-of-its-kind health care service equipments worth billions of Leones.

He informed that South Africa is the only country in the continent that has such equipments, adding that with the right motivation, the current free-of-charge health care service delivery of

the Holy Spirit Hospital will continue. He reiterated the need for people to work effectively after disability. "It is within this grave concern, the Bishop noted, "that the Diocese of Makeni along side the Don Gnocchi Foundation, an Italian organization constituting of surgery experts, introduced to Sierra Leone, the surgery and rehabilitation programme for amputees."

This, he said, would involve surgery operation of those whose hands, which were chopped at the wrist or carpals, so that prosthesis will be attached and that later, a physical and social rehabilitation of how to use this prosthesis would be done. The distinguished Man of God said the microsurgery unit is open to amputees all over Sierra Leone and extended his appreciation to the Italian foreign ministry for financing the initiative.

In his statement, the Acting Medical Director on behalf of staff of the Holy

Spirit Hospital, Dr Albert Uchey (a Nigerian), gave a rundown of services provided in the hospital, which said includes an obstetric laboratory, CD4 count machines, radiology department, kidney unitary and female reproductive tract department, machines detecting the sex of a fetus in the womb, functional cardiac machines, state of the art automated physiotherapy from Italy and a plastic surgery department. He said the training of plastic surgeons is now done in Ghana and that all those going through the training successfully would be eventually absorbed in the system and also informed that most medical students offer their internships at the Holy Spirit Hospital.

In his key note remarks, guest speaker of occasion, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma gave his profound gratitude to the Diocese of Makeni and the Bishop in particular, whose initiative, he said, made possible the institution of

the Holy Spirit Hospital.

The president said such strides supplement the efforts of the government to effect health-care services in the country and commended the increasing partnership of local NGOs and international agencies like UNICEF in supporting health in the nation.

The president also commended the Italian government for co-financing the initiative. Free cost of medical service, he observed, would reduce the risk of people giving preference to cheaper drugs, which, in turn, he said, would result into a terrible social infection. This, he emphasized, would also reduce the maternal and child mortality rate in the country.

President Koroma also revealed that government is now embarking on sending candidates to study post graduate courses in medical surgery in Ghana. During a conducted tour of the hospital, President Koroma was crowned honorary Chief Surgeon.

Standard Times
Thursday, 27 March 2008

30,000 Ammos seized at the Sierra Leone/Liberia Border

BY ABUBAKARR KARGBO

The Liberian Police are reported to have seized 30,000 rounds of ammunition, AK-47 and other assorted rifles in the western region of the country, close to the border of Sierra Leone.

A senior Liberian police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told this press that part of the ammunition was initially found last Wednesday 19th March 2008 by local people at Sinje, a Liberian town bordering Sierra Leone. He said the people intercepted three

canoes with alleged arms traffickers trying to cross the Marfee River.

The successful operation was jointly carried out by the Liberian Police and UN counterparts who received a tip-off of the illegal transaction and on Thursday March 20th 2008 discovered a large cache of ammunition.

According to reports, the arms traffickers were arrested with a big bags that contained the assorted quantities of ammunition. When the people of Sinje tried to interrogate them to know what they were

carrying in their bags, they resisted and the ensuing struggle resulted in a fight, leading to the traffickers fleeing and leaving the bags behind. The bags as reported contained 2,061 machine-gun ammunitions. When intelligence report was received, an official in the Liberian police disclosed that they searched the surrounding areas on Thursday 20th March 2008 and discovered 28,000 rounds of machine guns.

This has been confirmed by the UN Mission in Liberia and added *CONTINUED PAGE 15*

30,000 Ammos seized at the Sierra Leone/Liberia Border

FROM PAGE 1

that the ammunitions were old and unusable probably left behind by former rebel fighters. They recalled 2006 when a large quantity of ammunition was discovered in the same area apparently left behind by ex-fighters. The UN official said the discovery of the materials should not create any fear to both countries.


By the end of 2007, the United Nations Security Council renewed an arms embargo on Liberia for one year on the grounds that the peace situation in the country remains fragile despite reports that the country is gradually returning to stability.

Liberia was devastated by consecutive civil wars between 1989 and 2003. The country's timber and diamond resources, together with diamonds from Sierra Leone were taken by the fighting factions to pay for weapons.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 26 March 2008

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2 Candidates, 2 Destinies



It was 12 years ago. They were the two main rivals. One was the winner, the other loser. Now, there is a shifting of positions—the winner as a prisoner and the other loser, President. A Liberian journalist then covered the 1997 campaign. See page 7.

InRetrospect

Actors and Events in History

Liberia On the Home Stretch

Liberia is to hold parliamentary and presidential elections on 30 May. But by mid-April, the parties were not even off the ground or campaigning. Bickering over the Elections Commission had caused a severe delay, throwing everything

out of gear. Yet Ecomog insists the elections will be held as scheduled. NYENATI ALLISON reports from Monrovia.

States (Ecomog) still says the elections will hold on time. It sent its Ecomog peacekeeping force to Liberia in August 1990 to bring sanity to the country. But Ecomog had mixed fortunes. In the intervening years, Ecomog supervised the signing of 13



Who does win, Charles Taylor (left) or Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?

out of gear. Yet Ecomog insists the elections will be held as scheduled. NYENATI ALLISON reports from Monrovia.

The argument got noisier, often drowning the conversation of passers-by. In downtown Monrovia, youths engage themselves in street-side debate from the sidewalk to government offices to taxicabs. Peo-

ple are openly branded spies for one political party or the other. Others are prepared to bear off their shirts to prove the allegations wrong. The drums of war are silenced, for now, but the war of words continue unabated in Liberia's attempt to transform itself into a democracy after seven years of bloody civil war which has killed an estimated 150,000 and destroyed the physical and economic infrastructure of the country. In the process, mud slinging has become a seemingly unavoidable device employed by all presidential aspirants bent on revealing the skeletons in the other politicians' closets.

peace accords on Liberia. The first 12 didn't work.

This time Ecomog is determined to make the 13th succeed and says 30 May is the day, come rain or shine. But Liberians are not so sure.

Bickering over the leadership of the Elections Commission has caused serious delays. Voter registration and voter education are behind schedule.

The sorting out of the risky business of "former" warlords going to campaign in "former" enemy territories is yet to be tackled by Ecomog and the Elections Commission. Without concrete assurances of safety, it will be extremely dangerous for the former warlords to mount a nationwide campaign, and that will make nonsense of any talk of free and fair elections.

Though Ecomog says the recent disarmament programme in January was a huge success (60,000 combatants are said to have been disarmed), it is naive to think all the guns were handed in.

"We will have to harmonize the timetable to reflect the current situation caused by unavoidable delays," says the veteran journalist G. Henry Andrews who emerged as Elections Commission chairman.

The Commission is faced with the herculean task of deciding what method to adopt for the elections - is it first-past-the-post or proportional representation?

Most Liberians think the massive population shifts that have taken place in the country as a result of the war makes proportional representation a better choice. Most of the constituencies are still deserted. The war has uprooted some 60,000 people who have gone to the urban areas while some 800,000 are still in refugee camps dotted around West Africa. The expected influx of refugees into the country is not happening, making proportional representation an even better choice.

New African Magazine May 1997



She is not running for president, already six feet under, beheaded in cold blood during the war by government troops

"It is what Liberia needs now to avoid trouble in the future where others will feel left out and as a result may return to the bush to start another war", says presidential aspirant Chea Chespo Jr.

Some parties are already going into the elections under a cloud. Alhaji Kromah's All Liberia Coalition Party is still reeling from the confusion surrounding his recent arrest and release for stashing a large cache of arms in his home in Monrovia. After his release, Kromah dismissed the arms find. He said it was not a red card blocking his ascendancy to the presidency.

In an election in which personalities will play a more important role than issues, Kromah may yet win a large chunk of the votes. Whether it gives him a winning chip remains a question.

Facing Charles Taylor's NPP is an alliance formed by old guard politicians and a group of conservatives. The Alliance members are already squabbling among themselves over "election fraud" at their recent convention to elect an alliance leader. The geologist Cletus Wortorson eventually got the nod as the Alliance presidential candidate. But can he match Taylor pound for pound? Liberians will soon see.

Despite the intervention of the country's churches in the Alliance squabble, Baccus Matthews' United Peoples Party did not feel placated enough to remain in the Alliance. It pulled out, citing vote rigging - definitely not a good omen.

Another aggrieved party in the Alliance, the Liberia People's Party headed by the veteran politician Togba Nah-Tippoteh, however, he decided to stay in the Alliance hoping to fight the elections together with the other Alliance members pledged to a better future for the country.

Charles Taylor, forever a flashy man, is relying on his popular touch to take him through. Sirens register his presence in the potholed streets of Monrovia. His followers daily dance to the sound of drumbeats in front of his NPP headquarters.

"They say I brought the war, so let them give me the chance to rebuild the country. I sincerely want to rebuild what they claim I have destroyed", Taylor said recently in reaction to criticism from his opponents.

One candidate who is shrouded in suspicion of foreign-backing is Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the current director of the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) in New York. Having lived and worked in the US for many years, she is well connected to the high and mighty in Washington. Charles Taylor claims the US is "packaging Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf" for the presidency. She was an excellent technocratic minister of finance under President William Tolbert.

Though Johnson-Sirleaf had not put her hat in the ring at the time of writing, the Church, at least, had declared her ordained to win the presidency. A good number of Liberians agree, saying having been removed from the war, Johnson-Sirleaf will be a good compromise candidate to heal the wounds of a country broken by seven years of war.

Whoever wins will be faced with the huge task of rebuilding the ravaged infrastructure of the country. The only hydroelectric dam in the country lies in ruins, bringing life without electricity to the pleasure-loving capital, Monrovia. The \$2m-a-month earnings from the country's maritime programme is hardly enough to pay salaries for civil servants.

Although businesses are trying to rebuild after the war, and concession owners are revamping their activities, the economy still remains import-oriented. The lack of exports has further weakened the Liberian dollar which at its peak was on par with the US dollar in pre-war time.


All the presidential aspirants boast of having the vision to put Liberia on a better developmental footing, but whoever gets through to the Executive Mansion will quickly crumple under pressure from the population's high expectations. They can't wait to see a return to normalcy as they knew it before the war. And no government can deliver it on the spot.



With Doe came the cautions

New Democrat (Liberia) Wednesday, 26 March 2008

Taylor Trial Resumes Monday



Special Court Prosecutor Rapp
The trial of ex-president Charles Taylor will resume next Monday, 31 March, after a judicial break according to court sources. The Court began

Page 10

Taylor Trial Resumes Monday

its recess March 17 after hearing the testimony of one of Mr. Taylor's top enforcers, Zigzag Marzah, who detailed stories, burying victims alive and eating humans. The prosecution is expected to present more witnesses at the resumption of the trial Monday.

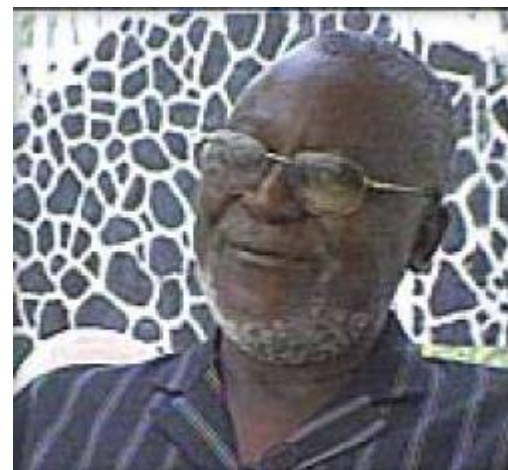
Patriotic Vanguard website

Wednesday, 26 March 2008

Memorial Service for Chief Hinga Norman

Public Announcement

The Hinga Norman family, the Government of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Civil Society and the Civil Defence Societies of Donsos, Gbethis, Hunting, Kamajors, Kapras and Tamaboros, wish to inform all Chiefdom Authorities, Section Chiefs, Town Chiefs, mayors and elders as well as all friends and well-wishers that ceremonies marking the One Year Anniversary for Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, who passed away on 22 February 2007 will take place in Bo, Kakua Chiefdom, Friday 11th April 2008.



A memorial service for the Late Chief will be at the Church of Salvation, Sewa Road, Bo officiated by Primate E. J. Fofana. This will be followed by a Grand Reception at Bo Town Hall hosted by the Resident Minister, Southern Province, Hon. Musa Tarawally.

There will also be a Wake and other festivities in Mongere and Nguuala in the Valunia Chiefdom on Saturday 12th April 2008 and a church service also in Nguuala on Sunday 13th April 2008.

For additional information, please contact Miss Juliet Norman in Freetown at 076-614177 or the Office of the Resident Minister in Bo at 076-700941.

The New People website

Friday, 21 March 2008

<http://www.thenewpeople.com/>

Presidential Militia Leader and Former AFRC-RUF Killer, Idrissa Hamid Kamara, aka "Leatherboot" Speaks.

3.21.2008



FREETOWN: NEW PEOPLE CORRESPONDENT: During the war years, his name evoked fear for the unrestrained brutality of fighters under his command. His fellow commanders in Alex Tamba Brima or "Gullit", Brima Bazzy Kamara, and Santigie Borbor Kanu are facing stiff 40 to 50 year prison terms for outrageous crimes against humanity and imprisoned by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. But President Ernest Bai Koroma has taken the unusual step and fashioned out a private militia of former fighters into a Presidential Guard Force Unit. The leader of the new armed militia is an infamous junta

commander, Idrissa Hamid Kamara (Leatherboots).

President Koroma personally instructed the Police force to conscript "Leatherboots" into the country's OSD in spite of clearly laid out procedures and conditions and then proceeded to send him and other former AFRC fighters for further training in close protection.

After returning, Leatherboots held a press conference in which he announced that in spite of his history of violence against Sierra Leoneans in not only commanding rebel units but in the infamous assault on Freetown in which 6,000 people were killed within a week and other sundry violent acts like the malicious beating of Rtd Col. Tom Nyuma, Leatherboots told the press conference that he has never and will not victimise fellow Sierra Leoneans but seek their welfare. How? He did not say.

Associated with violent looting and other atrocities, Leatherboots also said he is now going to protect lives and property and that he wanted Sierra Leoneans to repose confidence in him.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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

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

Newspaper Summary

Storm Destroys 70 Houses in Nimba County

(The Analyst, The News)

- A violent storm has reportedly destroyed 70 houses including a public school in Gbehlay-Geh District, Nimba County.
- Nimba County Representative Martin Farngalo said the storm swept away a school and 69 homes in Zorgowee, Zortapa, Younlay and Kehplay towns in Gbehlay-Geh District.
- The incident which has resulted into internal displacement of more than 1,000 persons, according to Mr. Farngalo, is due to deforestation in the area.

U.S. Defense Institute Trains 23 Liberians on Maritime Security

(The News)

- The United States Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in collaboration with the U.S. Navy's Africa Partnership Station has ended a four-day training seminar on the rule of law in maritime security for the personnel of several government ministries and agencies.
- Speaking Tuesday at the end of the training held at the Mamba Point Hotel in Monrovia, the Commander of the United States Coast Guard Patricia J. Hill said the training focused on international maritime security and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

UNHCR Tells Ghana to Stop Deportation of Liberians

(The News)

- The United Nations agency responsible for refugees, UNHCR has issued an account of the plight of Liberian refugees in Ghana and has subsequently called on the Ghanaian government to "stop the deportation of Liberians refugees".
- In a release circulated on Tuesday, the UNHCR said following the deportation on Sunday of 16 Liberians, 13 of them registered with UNHCR as refugees, the UN Refugee Agency has told the Ghana government to cease any further forcible removals.

Radio Summary

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

Disagreement Erupts At House of Representatives over "Lobby" Fee

- Quoting Legislative sources, Radio Veritas reports that disagreement has erupted among members of the lower House over the distribution of a little over US\$50,000 believed to have come from the Firestone management as "lobby" fee for the passage of the amended concession act.
- The source said the disagreement erupted when the leadership of the House decided to allocate US\$500 to other lawmakers while they took a huge portion of the money.
- However in a reaction, the Director of Press at the House of Representative, Isaac Redd dismissed the report as untrue.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

LCC Pleads for Restraint after Refugees "Manhandling" in Ghana

- The President of the Liberia Council of Churches, Methodist Bishop, John Innis has made a passionate plea to Liberians not to be resentful of Ghanaians residing in the country.
- Bishop Innis' appeal comes amidst reports of the alleged manhandling of Liberian refugees by Ghanaian security forces.
- The Bishop appealed to citizens to instead look forward to the mediation efforts initiated by government.

US\$150,000 Tug Boat Commission at Port of Monrovia

- A tug boat worth over US\$150,000 has been commissioned for use by the Freeport of Liberia.
- Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the Managing Director of National Port Authority, George Tubman said the new pilot boat would enhance efficiency in berthing vessels.
- He said the boat named 27 Challenger Ray Marine was purchased by the entity out of its own resources.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

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

Presidential Convoy Held up in Traffic Jam

- The Presidential motorcade of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was this morning caught up in traffic for nearly fifteen minutes after police seemed unable to clear the road to ensure the required 'right of way' passage.
- This is the second time the Presidential motorcade has been caught up in traffic.
- In April last year, a similar situation occurred leaving the President stranded in traffic for about fifteen minutes.
- Observers believed the situation has serious security implication and should be avoided at all time.

Edina Residents Rejects Census Mapping

- Reports from Grand Bassa County say citizens of Edina have refused to participate in the on going National Census exercise.
- Correspondents said the citizens are protesting a LISGIS map, which placed them under Buchanan City.
- The Edina citizens maintained they belong to District # 1 and not Buchanan City.
