

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Tuesday, 3 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Salone Times  
Tuesday, 3 April 2007

## MOVES TO SHOW TRANSPARENCY

# 3 JOURNALISTS FOR TAYLOR TRIAL IN THE HAGUE

*It has been learnt that three Sierra Leonean and two Liberian journalists would soon be employed to cover the trial of Liberia's former president' Charles Taylor which could commence anytime at the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, Netherlands.*

According to close sources at Search for Common Ground (SCG) at Bathurst Street in Freetown, the SCG in collaboration with the BBC World Service are working on a project which will provide radio coverage of Mr. Taylor's trial which

would be relayed directly to Sierra and Liberia.

However, the journalists would receive initial training on courtroom reporting, transitional justice issues among other relevant topics before they head for The Hague the sources



*Alhaji I.B. Kargbo... SLAJ President*

## Salone Journalists For The Hague

added.

It should be recalled that Mr. Taylor was indicted for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's war. He stands charged of bearing the greatest responsibility for such crimes. However, he eluded arrest

and was granted exile in Calabar, Nigeria where he lived until last year when he attempted to escape when orders for his arrest were announced.

He was subsequently arrested and brought to the Special Court in Freetown where he stayed briefly until he was flown to The Hague for trial.

For di People  
Tuesday, 3 April 2007

# Local Court System

**COMPONENT MANAGER** of the Justice Sector Development Programme, **Olayinka Creighton-Randall** said they must accept that the current Local Courts system in Sierra Leone is beset by many problems ranging from not being independent to the imposition of excessive and arbitrarily-imposed fines and the lack of a right-based approach to administering justice.

## obsolete laws

"As with many of our laws, the current Local Courts Act drafted in 1963 is also now obsolete and needs to be reviewed," she said.

She said that the Justice Sector Development Programme is a first step in facilitating the amendment of the 1963 Act and that the Law Reform Commission in collaboration with the ministry of Local Government has worked on the Act.

"This amended Local Courts Act is now with the Law Officers Department and it is hoped that it will be sent to this current parliament before its term expires," she said.

## first step

She said that this is just the first step and that with an enabling legally amended Act, all key stakeholders can work together to improve the working of the Local Courts thus, increasing their ability to provide equitable, fair and affordable access to justice for our local communities.

Studies carried out across the country by JSDP found a number of people, particularly women and youths prefer to resolve conflict by initially going to their heads of organisations that they are members of or their community heads which can be classified as a alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

## opening

"On the whole however, as is the case with Local Courts problems, these should not negate their usefulness and importance in terms of giving local communities access to justice".

She made these remarks at the official opening ceremony of the national workshop on Local Policing Partnership Board held at the Police Training School, Hastings last Thursday.

New Vision  
Tuesday, 3 April 2007



## **ICRC NEWS**



### **Six Colleges for the Third Moot Court Competition in Sierra Leone**

As part of its mandate to support states in raising awareness of International humanitarian law (IHL), six colleges from two universities in Sierra Leone will participate in this year's Moot Court Competition in International humanitarian law (IHL), which will be held at the facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in April 2007. The competition is an annual event organised by the ICRC and open to all students of higher education in the country with a fair knowledge of IHL.

Unlike previous years, only one application per institution is allowed in the forthcoming Moot Court competition but the teams could be made up of students from different departments of the same college. It is the third consecutive year that the competition is held in Sierra Leone. The teams of three students from each university or college will have to face a jury of IHL experts in a real court setting and the winning team will be sent to represent the country in the 7th Pan-African Moot Court Competition in Arusha, Tanzania, in November 2007.

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**or visit our website: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)**

# Sierra Leone & Liberia Taylor's trial still causing controversy

The trial of the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, will now start on 4 June despite objections by his defence team to move it to 3 September in order to give them enough time to prepare his defence. **Osei Boateng** reports.

**I**n a ruling still being disputed by Charles Taylor's defence team, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) said on 23 January that Taylor's trial will now begin on 4 June, a hugely controversial date in West African history, instead of the earlier "tentative date" of 2 April.

4 June (or in popular parlance "June 4") was the day in 1979 that junior military officers in Ghana revolted and started a revolution that saw Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings released from jail to lead a three-month "house-cleaning exercise" that ended with the execution of eight generals, an exercise carbon-copied a year later in Liberia by Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe who staged a coup on 12 April 1980, killed the then sitting president, William Tolbert Jr, and days later executed 13 of Tolbert's senior cabinet ministers and officials.

"June 4" launched Rawlings on his political career, which included a coup on 31 December 1981 and two terms of "civilian" democratically elected presidency (1992-2000). His 31 December coup was carbon-copied in Nigeria two years later, when General Muhammadu Buhari overthrew President Shehu Shagari's government on 31 December 1983 and adopted the same name as Ghana's "June 4" had taken four years earlier, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC).

The revolt in Liberia by junior officers

saw Samuel Doe entrench himself in power for nearly a decade. His misrule of the country was cited by Charles Taylor as one of the main reasons for his rebel war started on 24 December 1989 which saw Taylor become a democratically elected president in mid-1997.

During the war, Taylor's friendship with Foday Sankoh, the now deceased leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone, snowballed into a close relationship which is now being cited by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) as the foundation of the 11 charges brought against Taylor in the current trial.

Sankoh's RUF fought alongside Taylor's troops in Liberia, and when the RUF started its own rebel war in Sierra Leone in 1991, Taylor, according to the SCSL's indictment, paid back the compliment, sent some of his Liberian troops to fight for the RUF and influenced the prosecution of the war across the border by "helping" or "supporting" the RUF to organise "a campaign to terrorise the civilian population of Sierra Leone".

The name AFRC (or Armed Forces Revolutionary Council) would resurface again in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997 when junior military officers staged a coup and released Major Johnny Paul Koroma from jail to head a military junta called the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

that took over the government of President Tejan Kabbah.

Koroma, like Rawlings in Ghana, had been in jail for his involvement in an early abortive coup in August 1996. Rawlings too had been in jail for staging an unsuccessful coup in May 1978.

Koroma's AFRC ruled for 10 months in alliance with the RUF in what became known as the "AFRC/RUF alliance". Kabbah's government was restored in March 1998 after the AFRC/RUF had been put to flight by a Nigerian force operating under the flag of Ecomog/ECOWAS.

"June 4", therefore, occupies a special place in West African popular mythology. Some say it is a day of infamy, others insist it is a heroic day worthy of celebration. In choosing to start Charles Taylor's controversial trial on that date, the SCSL (which moved the trial from Freetown to The Hague last March for security reasons) might either have forgotten about the significance of that date to West Africans, or simply showed its insensitive side by ignoring it.

Taylor faces 11 charges for "helping" or "supporting" the RUF and the AFRC/RUF to, according to the indictment, "commit acts of terrorism; murder; violence to life; rape; sexual slavery and any other forms of sexual violence; outrages upon personal dignity; other inhuman acts; conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years



into armed forces or groups, or using them to participate actively in hostilities; enslavement; and pillage”.

The indictment (dated 16 March 2006) alleges that “[Taylor] had knowledge of the crimes committed, or the probability that such crimes would be committed.” It says “between about 30 November 1996 and about 18 January 2002, [Taylor] assisted in the commission of the alleged crimes by providing various forms of support...”

Additionally, the indictment alleges that Taylor “participated in this common plan, design or purpose as part of a continuing effort to gain access to the mineral wealth of Sierra Leone, in particular diamonds, to destabilise the government of Sierra Leone in order to facilitate access to such mineral wealth and to install a government in Sierra Leone that would be well disposed toward, and supportive of, [his] interests and objectives in Liberia and the region.”

According to the indictment, Taylor “incurs criminal responsibility for the alleged crimes because, as the superior of the perpetrators, he failed to take the necessary and reasonable measures to prevent or punish the

crimes of which he had actual knowledge of, or had reason to know.

“...While holding positions of superior responsibility and exercising command and control over the subordinate members of the RUF, AFRC, AFRC/RUF junta or alliance and/or Liberian fighters, [Taylor] is individually criminally responsible for the criminal acts of his subordinates in that he knew or had reason to know that the subordinates were about to commit such acts or had done so and [he] failed to take the necessary and reasonable means to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators thereof.”

Taylor has denied all the charges. According to his defence team, headed by the UK-based lawyer, Karim Khan, this is a “highly complex international case” which needs time to prepare before trial. Having been denied time, basic tools and even office space in The Hague and Monrovia (*see NA, Feb 2007*), the defence says it can only be ready for trial on 3 September. In early January, the defence threatened to pull out if the “woefully inadequate resources” at its disposal were not immediately alleviated. “We will not take part in a charade unless matters improve,” the team warned.

Interestingly, the prosecution is sympa-



thetic to the defence plight, “particularly in view of the workload put on the defence in preparation of the case”. And, though the prosecution did not oppose the defence’s 3 September date, it pleaded with the court to postpone the trial to “at least July 2007”. The court sat on 23 January to hear the motions for postponement, and ruled that: “The duty of the [court] is to balance the right of the accused to have adequate time for preparation of his case and his right to be tried without undue delay. [This] motion is

exceptional in that the accused himself, having been in pre-trial confinement since the end of March 2006, nevertheless requests a delay of the start of trial to 3 September 2007, citing inadequate time and facilities to properly prepare for the trial. This would mean that the accused would have spent a period of 17 months on pre-trial remand. While the prosecution does not oppose a delay to the start of the trial, it suggests an earlier date, ie, July 2007, which would mean that the accused would have spent a period of 15 months on pre-trial remand.

“While we [the court] are satisfied that the defence does in the circumstances require extra time to prepare the case, we are of the

Opposite left: Taylor’s defence team in court on 26 January 2007 to launch his appeal. Standing is the lead counsel Karim Khan, and on the right is James L. Supuwood. Below: Taylor arrives (in the dark van) at the ICC detention facility at Scheveningen, The Netherlands



**“If the defence [is] denied immediate relief and adequate time to prepare, the prejudice caused cannot be remedied save with a retrial.”**

considered opinion that the dates proposed in both instances would lead to undue delay of the trial. However, in light of all the aforementioned, the [court] is prepared to grant an adjustment and move the trial date to 4 June 2007.”

Regarding the provision of “adequate facilities” for the preparation of the defence case, the court conceded that “international courts and tribunals routinely emphasise the importance of ‘adequate time and facilities’ for the preparation of a defence”. However, the provision of such facilities “is an administrative matter falling primarily within the competence of the Office of Principal Defender (OPD), which ... is currently in the process of establishing such offices, [which] will be ready for occupation in February 2007...”

“While [the court] agrees that the availability of these offices to the defence at the earliest opportunity is of paramount importance, it acknowledges that the process of establishing these offices is an involved one and is satisfied that the Registry is making every effort to secure the swift establishment of those facilities in The Hague. The [court] therefore does not deem it necessary to issue a specific order to the registrar in this regard.”

Regarding the defence’s request for an office in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, or funds (a clerical allowance of 3,000 euros a month to run to the conclusion of the trial) be provided to set up such an office to facilitate its investigations in Liberia, the court sided with the OPD, saying that “it is not the practice of the Special Court to establish offices in countries or locations other than the venue of the trial”, especially when the OPD has already promised “to facilitate the defence team to undertake investigations in Liberia as necessary”.

“As far as providing adequate facilities to enable the defence to conduct investigations in Liberia is concerned,” the court said, “we are not convinced that it is necessary or imperative for the defence to establish an office in Monrovia for this purpose. On the contrary, we are of the view that the OPD’s undertaking “to facilitate the defence team to undertake investigations in Liberia as necessary” adequately addresses this issue. Accordingly, [the court] does not deem it necessary to issue a specific order to the registrar in this regard. [This] motion is therefore denied in its entirety.”

The defence team was not happy at all and immediately launched an appeal

against the two decisions, saying the verdict to set a trial date of 4 June “amounts to an abuse of discretion raising an issue of fundamental importance to the SCSL”, and also “causes irreparable prejudice to the defence”.

According to the defence: “The right to adequate time to prepare for trial is both expressly granted and derived from other rights that constitute elements of a fair trial.” Quoting Article 17(4)(b) of the SCSL statute which allows Taylor to have “adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence” and Article 17(2) which entitles him to a fair and public hearing, the defence insists that “one element of a fair hearing is the principle of ‘equality of arms’. Equality of arms becomes an empty shell without adequate time to prepare.”

The team believes that the “impugned decision [by the court], in holding that the defence requires more time to prepare but granting only limited relief, implicates the fundamental right to a fair trial... In balancing what [the court] considers to be competing interests, the [court] has implicitly concluded that the right to be tried without undue delay takes precedence over the right to adequate time to prepare.

“The defence, therefore, submits that the right to adequate time to prepare and the right to be tried without undue delay are not competing interests; they are both essential elements of the right to a fair trial under Article 17 of the SCSL statute. Mr Taylor’s right to be tried without undue delay cannot be invoked, *proprio motu*, to deny his appeal to preserve his right to adequately prepare his case.”

The defence, however, concedes that the matter is novel since there is no precedent in the SCSL system, and “a resolution will contribute to the jurisprudence of the SCSL and to the development of the international criminal law”.

But the team added: “If the defence [is] denied immediate relief and adequate time to prepare for trial, the prejudice caused cannot be remedied save with an order for retrial. The defence investigation will be severely circumscribed. Appellate review at the close of proceedings will not be able to cure the lack of adequate preparation.”

At the time of going to press, the court was yet to hear the appeal. And the question about whether Charles Taylor would get a fair trial was still hanging in the air. ■ NA



## International Justice Tribune

Monday, 2 April 2007

[http://www.justicetribune.com/?page=v2\\_article&id=3755](http://www.justicetribune.com/?page=v2_article&id=3755)

### **Registrar of the Court Dismissed**

Article length : 0.2 page

Paris  
02 April 2007

According to a March 19 press release from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Lovemore Munlo, registrar of the court since October 2005, decided "the time has come to move on".

In reality, the Special Court's management committee, which includes the key donor states and Sierra Leone, decided not to renew his mandate when it expired in March because they were dissatisfied with his management abilities. According to a source at the Court, there was a "total lack of direction" under Munlo, who had previously earned a lackluster reputation as deputy registrar of the court at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. For instance, the Special Court has been functioning since July 2006 without an annual budget approved by the management committee.

## Institute of War and Peace Reporting

Monday, 2 April 2007

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?ID=17441>

### **Taylor's lawyers want more time**

Lawyers say a dispute over surveillance cameras has wasted time that should have been devoted to preparing the former Liberian leader's defense. From IWPR.

By Katy Glassborow in The Hague for IWPR (02/04/07)

Defense lawyers acting for former Liberian president Charles Taylor have resumed consultations with their client following an 18-day protest, but they have warned the court trying his case that they will need more time to prepare his case because of a power struggle over jurisdiction.

Taylor is due to go on trial in June to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to conflict in Sierra Leone.

Proceedings against him are being conducted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) which is based in Freetown, but he is being held at detention facilities belonging to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, and his trial will take place there. Special Court officials took the view that holding his trial in Freetown could pose security risks in West Africa.

His lawyer Karim Khan suspended consultations with him 5-22 March, after objecting to the presence of a video surveillance camera in the designated meeting room at the ICC.

The camera had been in Taylor's consultation room since November, and Khan argued that the "monitoring of confidential communications" had a "constraining and chilling effect" on what should have been free and frank consultations.

Khan said an inordinate amount of time had been spent dealing with the camera issue, which he deemed a "violation of Mr Taylor's fair trial rights." Coupled with the 18-day suspension of consultations, he said the defense "does not see how this matter can be easily remedied [without] the provision of additional time for the preparation of the trial".

Since Taylor was transferred to The Hague in June last year, his defense team have since argued that the trial no longer poses a threat to security in the region, and in February 2007 they requested that it be returned to Freetown.

They have also argued that the memorandum of understanding between the SLSC and the ICC which underpins Taylor's presence in The Hague is flawed because it "cedes jurisdiction, without authority" to the ICC, even though the Sierra Leone court technically retains full jurisdiction of the trial and the way its detainee is treated.

Khan said that the issue of surveillance cameras fell into the chasm created by the apparent grey area of procedure. The ICC has insisted that the use of surveillance cameras is one of its rules, there for security rather than monitoring purposes. The SLSC's procedure is for client-lawyer consultations to be visually monitored by a security officer out of earshot.

Although the camera in Taylor's meeting room had no microphone, his lawyers said the presence of the camera inhibited their client from communicating freely with them.

Observers of the court such as legal expert Alison Smith from the No Peace Without Justice group, said that "the [SLSC-ICC] memorandum provides that the SCSL has charge of Taylor's trial and detention, so it is not clear how this confusion arose".

In late 2006, cameras were fitted in the consultation room set aside for Thomas Lubanga Dyilo from the Democratic Republic of Congo – the ICC's first and only indictee in custody. But Lubanga's defence lawyer Jean Flamme objected, and pre-trial judges in charge of his case ordered the registry to remove the cameras.

Taylor and his team, however, did not have the luxury of a trial chamber in The Hague, and the decision taken by the ICC judges was not binding for his case.

Although the SCSL presidency and registry backed moves to have the cameras, in accordance with the rules of detention applied in Freetown, the ICC stood firm. However, on 22 March, the ICC backed down, sending a letter to the Special Court saying that surveillance cameras would not after all be used when Taylor was in consultation with his legal team.

As Khan pointed out when he notified trial judges in Freetown on 23 March that legal consultations with Taylor were resuming, the ICC decision mirrors the ruling issued by the SCSL president over a month earlier, on 21 February.

Smith told IWPR that the issue of surveillance cameras may foreshadow more problems, because there seems to be an "inherent uncertainty over who has the power to do what".

She pointed out that the two individuals currently held at the ICC detention facility belong to different legal regimes, and that "ICC judges do not have a say over one of the accused [Taylor]."

Smith also expressed broader concerns about what would happen if other tribunals such as the Iraqi Special Tribunal asked for persons they had indicted to be held in the ICC's detention facilities. This could be problematic, for instance because the Iraqi tribunal can issue the death penalty, while the ICC does not.

Speaking from South Africa, Justice Richard Goldstone, an international justice expert and war crimes prosecutor, told IWPR that it was clear that "SCSL judges have to be completely in charge of all procedures and rules that apply."

The former Liberian leader may be in detention on ICC premises, but Goldstone insisted, "This is merely a housing arrangement and the ICC has no jurisdiction over decisions relating to Taylor."

Khan stressed that Taylor's legally privileged consultations with his defence team have been monitored since November 2006, and the "apparent inability of the Special Court registry and the ICC registry to resolve the issue in an expedient and transparent fashion forced the defense to suspend consultations".

Khan said the defense was kept "entirely in the dark" for two-and-a-half weeks as to what action the SCSL registry was taking either to deal with its complaint, or to implement the decision of the Special Court's president.

Avi Singh, who also works on Taylor's defense told IWPR that although no formal appeal has yet been filed to push the trial back, "there of course exists good cause for it, and it is something that will need to be decided."

He said that the prejudice suffered by his client related not only to the 18-day freeze when "we were forced to suspend legal consultations," but also to the preceding period since the camera was installed, in which "we have continued legal consultations with some prejudice for more than three months, and under protest."

"We ended up expending considerable energy fighting the camera, when a reasonable administrative decision would have let us focus on the case," added Singh.

Khan said the question of a possible postponement of the trial start was a matter for the three trial chamber judges – Justice Julia Sebutinde, Justice Richard Lussick and Justice Teresa Doherty – to decide on.

Taylor's trial is due to start in The Hague in June 2007.

Myjoyonline.com

Tuesday, 3 April 2007

<http://www.myjoyonline.com/archives/news/200704/3050.asp>

## Charles Taylor's son wants Kufuor to stop his father's trial

Posted on: 3-Apr-2007

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Charles Taylor - Maintains he is falsely being accused.

Tom Charles Taylor, son of former Liberian –leader Charles Granky Taylor, has appealed to President John Agyekum Kufuor, to use his good office as African Union Chairman to intervene in the on-going trial of the former Liberian leader.

Tom Taylor who made this call in Accra, expressed optimism that this would not be his father's last hour in incarceration. He claimed Charles Taylor was innocent of the charges of war crimes for which he is presently standing

trial.

Pledging to intensify his campaign to actualize the release of his father, Tom recalled the Former UN boss Kofi Annan in welcoming Taylor's transfer to The Hague, Netherlands, last year that the trial would "mark a further victory in the struggle to end impunity." He however felt strongly that the time had come for Annan to have a rethink in the face of the inability of his adversaries to substantiate allegations. "My father is a victim of high level politicking," he said.

Tom Charles Taylor, who was in charge of diamond mining in Liberia during his father's regime was recently questioned by his country's authorities for looting over \$500 million under what observers see as part of the Liberian government's effort. to rid the nation of corruption and recover ill-gotten wealth.

He has since been cleared of all allegations.

Charles Taylor was President of Liberia from 1997-2003. He is accused of wreaking havoc on his own country as well as causing civil wars in at least two others. He was recently sought asylum in 2003 after pressure from Liberian rebel forces and the international community forced his resignation from office.

Taylor is now standing trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal. In 1989, Taylor launched a rebel attack from neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire, throwing the country into civil war. For six long years, several different rebel groups vied for control of the country and its natural resources. In 1995, a peace agreement was reached, and in 1997, Taylor was elected

president with nearly three quarters of the vote.

He developed close relationship with Foday Sankoh, the head of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), a Sierra Leonean rebel group while both men were in Libya learning guerrilla tactics from Muammar Qaddafi. Taylor allegedly gave the RUF guns and other military equipment in exchange for diamonds, helping to fuel the RUFs activities and the suffering it wrought on the civilian population.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone would later indict him for his role in the conflict. In 1999 and in 2003, two separate groups merged to challenge Taylor's rule and by summer of 2003, he was in control of less than one third of the country. In an effort to avoid further escalation of the conflict and a complete collapse of Liberia, the United States publicly called on Taylor to resign which he did in August and was granted refuge in Nigeria.

In the same year, the Special Court in Sierra Leone called for a Taylor trial for war crimes. Nigeria refused to hand over Taylor, stating it would only extradite him to Liberia. In 2005, Liberians elected Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as President, paving the way for Taylor's extradition. In March of 2006, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo finally agreed to hand Taylor over to Liberia, where he was promptly sent to Freetown to stand trial at the Special Court.

Taylor has maintained that he is innocent saying Jesus Christ was accused of being a murderer in his time.

*Culled from Network Herald*

## Cocorioko website

Monday, 2 April 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/MondayApril22007p2.html>

### **Hinga Norman's Family Rejects Autopsy Report**

The public is informed that the family of Chief Sam Hinga Norman does not accept or endorse the recently released forensic pathologists' report alleging that Chief Norman died of "natural causes" as a result of myocardial infarction (heart attack) as the definitive and exclusive cause of death. The family still stands by its original assertion that Chief Norman died under sub-standard medical and clinical conditions, medical neglect and / or possible human intervention in the natural healing process at the Aristide La Dantec Hospital in Dakar , Senegal on 22 February 2007.

It is also profoundly disgraceful that lies propagated by the information department of the so-called special court for Sierra Leone with respect to Chief Norman staying at "the VIP wing" of a military hospital in Senegal have being subsidized by bogus photographs of the alleged hospital where the Chief died and that attempts are presently being made by certain officials of the court to cover up what now appears to be gross mishandling of the Chief's medical care and post-operative therapy.

The public is further advised that the family is presently in legal and medical consultations abroad of their own choosing and at their own expense and will make a official statement in response to the autopsy and toxicological reports as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, friends and supporters of Chief Hinga Norman, in particular members of the Kamajor Movement, are well advised that the struggle to vindicate the good name and character of Mr. Moinina Fofana, Dr. Alieu Kondewa and Chief Hinga Norman was not buried with Chief Norman. We still anxiously await the long-delayed verdict in the matter of Prosecutor versus Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa which has now rested with the Trial Chamber for the last four months while Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa languish in prison and Chief Norman rests with his ancestors.

It goes without saying that neither the CDF leaders presently on trial nor members of the Kamajor Movement did any thing in the defence of their motherland for which to be ashamed. When the constitutional army rebelled against the State and the nations of the world some of whom now sit in judgment of the CDF packed their bundles and left Sierra Leone , the President and Commander-in-Chief twice ordered Kamajors to restore civil authority by force of arms. When rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rampaged Freetown first in January 1999 and again in May 2000, the President again put the Kamajors into armed service to liberate the country. So to the extent that those who time and again engaged the services of the Kamajors for the greater good of the nation have now abandoned their cause and betrayed their leaders for short term political and fiduciary gains, it is to their shame and eternal damnation.

As we anxiously await the verdict in the trial of the CDF leaders, Kamajors are encouraged to stay the course. We know that any one who puts his hands on the plow and turns back is not worthy of the prize. With respect to the indicted CDF leaders, their cause to defend and to stand for their rights continues to be our eternal refrain until in the words of the Hebrew Prophet Amos, "judgment rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

God Bless All,  
Alfred Munda SamForay,  
Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund.

*[This was also carried by the Patriotic Vanguard website at  
[http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id\\_article=1132](http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=1132)]*

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 April 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN extends mission in Liberia for six months**

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 30, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The UN Security Council extended on Friday the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for six more months. In a resolution unanimously adopted, the Council recognized that "significant challenges remain in the consolidation of Liberia's post-conflict transition, including massive development and reconstruction needs, the reform of the judiciary, extension of the rule of law throughout the country, the development of the Liberian security forces and security architecture, and consolidation of State authority."

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **New Ivory Coast peace deal will succeed: Burkina Faso**

PRETORIA, April 2, 2007 (AFP) - A new Ivory Coast peace accord that binds the west African nation's two warring factions to implementing it will ensure it succeeds where others have failed, Burkina Faso's foreign minister said Monday. Youssouf Ouedraogo expressed his confidence to reporters that the agreement would be implemented after a meeting with his South African counterpart, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

**AP** 04/01/2007 11:31:29

#### **Man sentenced for trying to steal \$23 million from Sierra Leone**

DETROIT\_A Detroit federal judge has sentenced a businessman to 40 months in prison for trying to defraud Sierra Leone for work done during the West African nation's civil war ten years ago. Prosecutors say that 36-year-old Pasquale DiPofi tried to make it seem that Sierra Leone officials owed 23 million dollars to his company for security services.

**BBC** Last Updated: Monday, 2 April 2007, 10:32 GMT 11:32 UK

#### **African troops killed in Darfur**

Five African Union peacekeepers have been killed in an attack in Sudan's western Darfur region, officials say. AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni said the soldiers were guarding a watering point near the Chad border when attacked. It is the heaviest single loss in an attack since the 7,000-strong force first deployed in 2004.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **UNMIL's Mandate Extended**

*(The Inquirer, New Democrat and Liberian Express)*

- The United Nations Security Council in a Resolution on Friday extended by six months, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia on the basis that there are still significant challenges including massive development and reconstruction needs, judicial reform and the extension of the rule of law to overcome in the country.

#### **Former Speaker Snowe Charged with "Theft of Property"**



*(The Inquirer, The Informer, Public Agenda and The Monitor)*

- Police in Monrovia have charged former Speaker Edwin Snowe with "Theft of Property". Mr. Snowe is being accused of stealing more than US\$1 million during his tenure as Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company.

### **US State Department Indicts Liberian Police for Taking Bribes**

*(New Democrat)*

- A US State Department Human Rights Report for 2006 accused the Liberian Police of engaging in extortionist practices, including taking bribes from travelers at checkpoints. According to the Report, corruption is endemic in Liberia despite the Government's pronouncement of combating it.

### **UNMIL and Firestone Security Undertake Joint Patrols**

*(The Informer and The Inquirer)*

- The Task force Section of the Plant Protection Department of Firestone and UNMIL have begun a joint patrol within the concession area of Firestone to combat the growing waves of illicit tapping which has resulted in the death of several workers at Firestone Rubber Company.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 6:45 pm)*

### **UN Extends Mandate of Mission in Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)*

### **Government Removes Squatters under Key City Bridge**

- Following the demolition of structures which were put up under the Gabriel Tucker Bridge by squatters over the weekend, Public Works Minister Luseni Donzo told reporters that the exercise was intended to prevent the squatters from undermining the bridge.

*(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)*

### **Main Opposition Party to Field Candidate for House Speaker**

- According to its Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Acarus Gray the opposition Congress for Democratic Change said that it would field a candidate for the position of Speaker during the House election this week.

*(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)*

### **President Ends Tour of Canada**

- Correspondents said that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf returned home Sunday following her visit to Canada where she sought that Country's support for debt relieve ahead of a summit of G8 countries in June.

*(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)*

*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. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 30 March 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN Council extends Liberia peacekeeping mission**

UNITED NATIONS, March 30 (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council extended a peacekeeping mission in Liberia on Friday for six months and asked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to present a gradual troop withdrawal plan in June. The U.N. peacekeeping force -- currently more than 15,000 troops -- was deployed in 2003 to help implement a cease-fire deal following Liberia's 14-year civil war that killed more than 200,000 people and drove more than a million from their homes. In a report to the Security Council earlier this month, Ban asked that the force in the impoverished nation of 3.2 million be extended for 12 months. But the council, in a resolution adopted unanimously, only renewed the mandate until Sept. 30, 2007.

#### **President Sirleaf Meets Canadian Council On Africa**

Monrovia, Mar 30, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has told members of the Canadian Council on Africa that Liberia offers attractive investment opportunities. The President said Liberia offers opportunities in Mining, power, marine, telecommunications and the transportation sectors, and urged the Canadian business community to take advantage of the opportunities. According to an Executive Mansion release, the President was speaking on Wednesday, when she met with members of the Canadian Council on Africa, in continuation of a state visit to that country. The Council's President, Lucien Bradet, praised the Liberian leader for the steps being taken by the government of Liberia to improve good governance and put in place policies that are now guiding Liberia toward sustainable economic development.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Oslo cancels Sierra Leone debt, gives to UN reform**

OSLO, March 30, 2007 (AFP) - Norway said Friday it would cancel Sierra Leone's debt of 62 million kroner (7.6 million euros, 10 million dollars) and would also donate an additional 25 million dollars this year to UN reform. The cancellation of the Sierra Leone debt is part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative announced by the Paris Club earlier this year, the Norwegian foreign ministry said in a statement. In a separate statement, the Norwegian government said it had pledged an additional 25 million dollars this year for the implementation of UN reform.

#### **Ivory Coast opposition welcomes rebel premier**

ABIDJAN, March 30 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's opposition has welcomed the appointment of rebel leader Guillaume Soro as prime minister and the political novice must now show he can stand his ground against President Laurent Gbagbo, local analysts said. Gbagbo named Soro, head of the New Forces which seized the country's north in a 2002-2003 civil war, as premier on Thursday to cement a peace accord signed this month in Burkina Faso which called for the organisation of elections

within 10 months. Soro, 34, is due to name a cabinet to tackle such thorny issues as disarmament and voter identification on the road to a presidential election delayed since 2005 in the world's biggest cocoa exporter.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Appeals for Strong International Support**

*(The Heritage, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer, The Analyst and National Chronicle, New Liberia)*

- Addressing a public policy conference in Toronto, Canada, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called for strong international support to help Liberia address its development and reconstruction challenges.
- President Sirleaf said private sector investment in Liberia resource-based activities would be critical to reinvigorate the economy.
- The President said Liberia and other African countries which have embraced democracy provide the best hope for sustain growth and poverty reduction in Africa and urged Canada and other developed countries to offer the bulk of foreign assistance to these countries and other that have overcome their macroeconomics and debt problems and have designed a strong poverty reduction program.
- The conference is examining practical solutions and policy choices for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **House of Representative Sets Timetable for Leadership Election**

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

- Members of the House of Representative yesterday set next Thursday, April 5 as the date to elect a new Speaker.
- This decision follows months of bickering over whom to succeed the former Speaker of the House of Representative Edwin Snowe.
- The House Plenary said those wanting to contest the speaker post must resign their current positions by next Thursday.

### **UN Refugee Agency Repatriates over 200 Refugees**

*(The Informer and Inquirer)*

- More than 200 Liberian refugees from Nigeria and Ghana yesterday arrived in the country ahead of the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline set by the UN Refugee Agency for the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees.
- A UNHCR statement said by the end of June it is expected to have repatriated 60,000 refugees from camps in the region.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 6:45 pm)*

### **Armed Men Attack Rubber Plantation**

- Correspondents say armed bandits yesterday attacked the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County and made away with some rubber and other valuable properties at the rubber plantation.
- The reports UNMIL Bangladeshi troops later moved in to restore calm.

### **Election for New Speaker Scheduled for Next Thursday**

- Speaking during plenary yesterday, members of the House of Representatives say they are determined to go to the polls next Thursday to elect a new Speaker.
- This decision follows the resignation of the former Speaker, Edwin Snowe last month. The House Plenary said those wanting to contest the speaker post must resign their current positions by next Thursday.

### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Seeks Canada's Help**

- Addressing a public policy conference in Toronto, Canada, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said Liberia and other African countries which have embraced democracy provide the best hope for sustain growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

- An Executive Mansion statement said the President urged Canada and other developed countries to offer the bulk of foreign assistance to these countries and other that have overcome their macroeconomics and debt problems and have designed a strong poverty reduction program.
- The conference is examining practical solution and policy choices for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Denmark Gives AFFELL over US\$1 Million Grant**

- The Danish government has given a grant of US\$1.1 million to the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia(AFELL) to undertake a project in responding to gender based violence
- The two year project is aimed at strengthening the Criminal Justice System to effectively respond to gender-based violence in the country.
- Speaking during the signing of the grant agreement , AFELL President Counsellor Lois Bruthus said in order to carry out their advocacy speedily they must be able to promote the judicial system
- Danish Ambassador to Liberia, Flemming Bjork Pederson praised the group for their work and hoped there would be more resources for them to undertake their legal duties.

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## OHCHR News

Monday, 2 April 2007

### **GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE MUST IMMEDIATELY HALT USE OF LETHAL FORCE AGAINST UNARMED POLITICAL ACTIVISTS**

Philip Alston, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, issued the statement that follows today.

Mr. Alston is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council

"The Zimbabwe Government must immediately halt its use of lethal force against unarmed political activists", according to a United Nations human rights expert.

Philip Alston, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said that such a practice represented a clear violation of international human rights law. "The Government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life. In particular, such an approach reflects no attempt to balance the rights to political participation and to freedom of expression and association with any legitimate notion of the need to maintain public order", he said.

The Special Rapporteur noted that the killing of Gift Tandare, the shooting of Nickson Magondo and Naison Mashambanhaka at point blank range and the deaths of 8-10 persons at Harare hospitals from injuries consistent with being beaten by state security agents with blunt instruments are particularly troubling. Full, independent investigations must be undertaken as soon as possible.

Surveying the relevant international legal standards, he concluded that military and police officers may use lethal force only when doing so is strictly necessary for self-defence or the defence of another's life. Governments that order their forces to shoot are violating international human rights law.

"Under international law, widespread or systematic attacks against the civilian population are crimes against humanity", Mr. Alston added. "Members of the police and military who comply with orders to gun down demonstrators will eventually be held to account".