

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Friday, 3 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## Norman discloses

# Kabbah was the National Commander of the CDF

By Betty Milton

As Chief Hinga Norman continues his evidence at the Special Court, more light has been shed on the structure of the wartime Civil Defence Forces (CDF), as a document that was tendered as exhibit reveals that President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was the National Commander of the Forces.

Chief Norman said that prior to the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), an organogram was sent to him from the Office of the NCC and its implementation became effective between February to March 1999.

The purpose of the organogram was for the effective administration of the various Hunter groups

and the distribution of logistics provided for them by the Government of Sierra Leone

Chief Norman explained that, "the President was and is still the National Commander of the CDF" in

the structure established in the organogram. The Vice President was also the Vice in the structure.

About the position of the National Coordinator of the CDF, the witness said in

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## Kabbah was the National Commander of the CDF

*From Front Page*

terms of hierarchy, it was the sixth position. He maintained that the structure was in operations up to the end of January 2002 when the Government ceased to supply logistical provisions

to the CDF. He stated that there was an arrangement for the Government to provide fighting and maintenance logistics to the CDF. He averred that the maintenance logistical provisions were in the form of rice and money.

Chief Hinga Norman also revealed that the objective of the CDF was to reinstate the democratically elected government. This message, he noted, was always preached at War Council meetings at Base Zero and one held in Guinea.

**Hinga Norman says...**

# Kabbah still Kamajor National Commander



*Special Court Inditee  
Norman*

Chief Norman- Dr. Bubuake Jabbie told the Court that both documents tendered as exhibit were designed by President Kabbah for the effective admonition of the Civil Defence Forces fighters, during the height of the war. Before tendering the documents, which were marked by the Court as exhibit 123, Defence Counsel

*continued page 2*

*By Joseph Turay*

**T**he Defence Team of first accused of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF)- Hinga Norman has

tendered a letter alleged to have been written to the Special Court inditee by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in Court as exhibit. Tendering the letter and another document said to be the administrative organogram of the CDF Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to the Judges, Defence Counsel for

# Kabbah still Kamajor National Commander

*from front page*

Jabbie argued that it is part of their evidence.

The accused- Norman while identifying the documents, said that President Kabbah copied the letter dated 29th January 1999 to him for the establishment of the National Co-ordinating Committee of the CDF.

This Chief Norman said later followed the setting up of the CDF hierarchical structure known as 'organogram' by His Excellency President Kabbah. In a very confident mood as he stands in the witness box while identifying the documents, Norman told the Judges that which he sees on the organogram which is President Kabbah "was and is still the National Commander" of the Kamajor Fighting Forces, while the Vice President at that time was the second in command. Chief Norman also revealed that he

was the 6<sup>th</sup> in command in the list as National Co-ordinator and Deputy Defence Minister at the time.

He also revealed that the documents tendered were distributed to all key players in the CDF who mainly constituted members in the organogram and the War Council of the Kamajors. At this stage while identifying the documents, one of the Prosecuting Consels, Joseph Kamara, objected on the grounds that the accused- Norman had been reciting the documents, noting that it is against the normal practice for a witness to read a document that has already been tendered in Court as exhibit.

The Trial Chamber I presided over by Justice Pierre Boutet overruled the objection, citing that the Defence did not in any way go contrary to the normal practice governing the rules of procedure.

# Hinga Norman explains functions of the CDF War Council

*By Tom Tommy &  
Saffia S. Kabbah*

Chief Sam Hinga Norman continued his defence yesterday at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with incites into how the

Civil Defence War Council functioned during the war. Chief Norman also gave an explanation into how Tongo Field was captured by the Kamajors in conjunction with ECOMOG.

According to him, the purpose of the War Council was to provide guidance and advice to the hunters regarding their activities and also to provide them with logistical support.

On the structure of the War Council, he said, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone was the National Commander and up to date, he maintained,  
*Contd: page 2*

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# Hinga Norman explains functions of the CDF War Council

*From front page*

he is still the National Commander and the prior head of the CDF War Council, while the Vice President is his Deputy. He further maintained that his position as National Coordinator as far as the organogram of the War Council was concerned is 6<sup>th</sup> in the structure. He asserted that after the first and second, there are still three other senior authorities ahead of him in the hierarchy. He also asserted that the structure and hierarchy of the CDF War Council remained in that order since February/March 1999 up to the day of the President's "War Don Don" pronouncement. Dilating further into the structure of the War Council, Chief Norman disclosed that there were several Commanders and that these were in turn subdivided into 23 Sub Command units and that these Commanders and their troops get their logistic supports from the Government of Sierra Leone which ranged from rice, money, arms and ammunition. These logistic supports, Chief Norman maintained were received from the Government of Sierra Leone on to the time the "War Don Don" pronouncement was made,

adding however that after the pronouncement, all other logistical support were stopped except for rice and money.

On the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee of CDF, he explained that it was only after it was established that he received a letter informing him about it and asking that he be part of it, which he said was in January 1999.

The CDF War Council, Chief Norman stated was later changed into the Defence Council after the war had been declared over. Chief Norman went on to describe the Kamajors as "old people who had existed long before our generation", and added, "they are there and they're still existing."

ECOMOG and the Kamajors he said entered Sierra Leone with the sole aim of capturing bases that were occupied by the RUF junta, which included the whole of the east, north and southern regions of the country. The War Council he said performed the miscellaneous role of encouraging the entire Sierra Leone populace to give every support necessary to the ECOMOG and the Huilers in order to facilitate the restoration of democracy and

reinstatement of the government of President Tejan Kabbah.

On the capture of Tongo field, he said the message was conveyed to him verbally. Tongo, he went on was a "Ding Dong Base", that is according to him. "one week I will hear that the Kamajors are occupying Tongo and after another week, I will get information that junta troops have taken over again from the Kamajors", he stated, adding that up to the time of disarmament, the area was occupied permanently by junta forces.

Chief Norman also stated that in 1998, His Excellency the President assigned him in his capacity as the Deputy Defense Minister and the Honourable Vice President to go to Kenema to collaboratively work to put an end to the war by way of holding meeting with the people in order to know their views as well as evaluate their thoughts as to what should be done next. According to him, he and the Vice President were in Kenema for a month and a half in order to accomplish that assignment. "This was what in fact took me to the S.S. Camp," Chief Norman told the court. The testimony continues.

Exclusive  
2 February 2006

# “Kabbah Is Kamajoh Chairman...”

By Mohamed Kal  
Special Court indicted Hinga Norman, has disclosed that President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was and is still

the Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee which brought into being the Civil Defence Force in-

cluding the Kamajors. Mr Norman, in his testimony at the Special Court said it was the National Coordinating

**-Hinga Norman Tells Special Court**  
Committee that brought War Council branch into being, the Kamajoh then based in Guinea Conakry and headed by  
*Contd. page 2*

## “Kabbah Is Kamajoh Chairman...”

*From front page*

President Kabbah and former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby. Immediately after the setting up of the National Coordinating Committee, Norman went on, strategies were worked out to explore the possibility for the supplying consignments of arms and ammunitions to the CDF as well as other logistics.

He said the National Coordinating Committee was formed just after the AFRC junta overthrew the SLPP government on 25 May 1997, noting that he even advised the president to prevent children for participating in the conflict.

Mr Norman also told the court that during the war, he sometimes received directives from the National Coordinating Committee from Conakry and the Kamajor War Council at Base Zero, between Gondama and Koribondo as to how the war should be pursued in the battle field.

He recalled that after the 25 May 1997 coup, he went into hiding for seven days and he was not in Bo when the junta attacked Bo, and that he did not order the recruitment and participation of children under the ages of fifteen in the armed conflict.

“The hunters in Sierra Leone have lived for over ten thousand years and they will still continue to live,” Norman concluded.



## **Will Kabbah Come To Special Court?**

**PEEP'S FRIEND, Fred Carew, that lawyer from Tonkolili is said to be on a collision path with the Special Court because of his determination to block any subpoena for president Kabbah's appearance at the Special Court.**

That infact is the demand of Norman as well as the other two - Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa - that the main man in all this business of the war and the rest actually rests on Kabbah's lap.

It is not as in the Paul Kamara case when Kabbah used his presidential dictatorship not to appear in court even though he originated the matter or for his civil service record that has the bad recommendations of both the Governor-General and Justice Beoku-Betts, to be tendered in court.

But many opined that the Special Court has jurisdiction over our own national courts so that a summon from the Special Court if not respected by Kabbah might perhaps put their work in jeopardy or create a bad picture of the entire Special Court proceedings.

Some people always hold that the international community only looks at the underdogs that is, the rebels and the sobels who were merely victims of a rotten political order and that the real causers of all our predicaments are still

the recycled leaders of the SLPP and the APC still perpetuating themselves in power.

So that the rebels and the sobels and most Sierra Leoneans nowadays see the Special Court as bias and that's why Liberia prefers to settle it's problems without opening new wounds when everybody knows the real culprits for Sierra Leone's despondency.

Infact, Peter Penfold whom most Sierra Leoneans admire for the role he played to give us peace but was sacked by his government for his role in the Sandline Affair would also help us understand Kabbah's role or whether Norman, Fofanah and Kondowa are responsible.

The man who evacuated Kabbah when the rebels almost nabbed him was a soldier, Lt Tim Spicer whose book: "The Unorthodox Soldier," cast Kabbah in a bad light and held him responsible not Norman for the command and control situation that led to his restoration.

All Peep would say is that if Nixon, Clinton, Bush and Tony Blair could face the heat in the kitchen then Kabbah too has to assist to make the task of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as the conclusions of the Special Court meaningful to all Sierra Leoneans as well as the international community.

Exclusive  
2 February 2006

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# Charles Margai In Court Today

*By Ibrahim Foday*

The leader of the newly registered People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC),

Mr. Charles Margai will today appear at the High Court No. 1 presided over by Justice

Ademosu in continuation of the matter be-

*Contd. page 2*

## Charles Margai In Court Today

*From front page*

tween himself, ten others and the state, over an application made by State Counsel Monfred Sesay for the matter to be transferred from Bo to Freetown, which according to the state counsel, was as a result of the envisaged insecurity generally in Bo; as informed by security authorities in the township. During previous hearing, both Mr. Margai and Lawyer M.P Fofanah who represented the other accused person's argued that, transferring the matter from Bo to Freetown will be too costly as the bulk of the witnesses are resident in Bo, and besides, there is no insecurity in Bo as they have made two successful appearance before the Bo Magistrate Court.

Abayomi Tejan

observes ambivalence  
in African leaders'  
attitude toward 'War  
Crime' indictee, Charles  
Taylor. Moreover, the key  
stakeholder, Nigeria, is

faltering. The ball is now in the court  
of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of  
Liberia, and she is battling against  
formidable international Human  
rights advocates pushing for Taylor's  
prosecution, the United Kingdom,  
the United States and the United  
Nations. Would she prefer impunity  
in exchange for a peace that they  
helped restore to Liberia and Sierra  
Leone?

Lawyers are familiar with the term 'sine qua non'  
—had it not been.

All forms of government sanction the inviolability  
of the person of the head of state. Armies will go  
to war in defense of the King, the President.

As Commander in Chief of the German army, the  
Fuher alone ordered them into attacking the rest  
of the world.

#### **Hitler's massacre**

The horrid images of Hitler's massacre of the Jews  
jolted a hitherto ambivalent League of Nations into  
high gear, which then assumed a more responsible  
attitude and robust response to any nation or  
individual threatening humanity and world peace.  
Hitler and his generals paid dearly for it after the  
United Nations adopted the Geneva Conventions.  
Africa being the poorest, weakest and most  
vulnerable continent derived their independence  
from the colonists. Since Zimbabwe gained  
independence in 1981, the rest of independent  
Africa, suffered a common political phenomenon,  
unless and until violent means is used, there will be  
no change in leadership.

Coups and rebellions characterized the African  
politics, and leaders learned how to use the  
international community when they feel threatened  
or deprived, and spite them when they call upon  
them to affirm their commitment working together  
to secure the peace of the peoples of the civilized

**Instead of treating  
Taylor as the common  
war criminal and  
prisoner he is,  
Obasango is playing  
the Jesus. But Jesus  
the Good Shepherd**

# Taylor and 'sine qua non' factor

world—yes, there are uncivilized nations, and leaders.  
African leaders prefer a win-win situation, even to  
the detriment of multitudes. The 'had it not been'  
monologue song tells a tale how Europe  
underdeveloped Africa, how they exploit us, and,  
now, how they are trying to re-colonize us.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf does not have a zoo political  
background, though comfortable with the  
bureaucracies and economics of the west.

It would take more than eloquence and 'know-how-  
to-talk' politics for Ellen to deal with the highly  
sensitive and profound issues of modern day  
international politics, and how her compatriots use  
pan African schisms to distract the gullible and  
egocentric.

As an African herself, she wouldn't be human if she  
is not seen to reckon with old timers like Obasango,  
Mugabe, Kuffour and others who, though yet  
tradition-modern elites, living in 'white culture,'  
enjoying the luxuries the technology of the developed  
West offers, proclaim that African fraternity is under  
threat when outsiders point out their mistakes. Some  
call it 'neo-colonialism'—a stupefying doctrine to  
mask our shame at not being able to take our own  
destiny since independence. Obasango argues, as it  
were, that *had it not been* for Taylor's 'involuntary  
exile' in Nigeria, peace would not have returned to  
Liberia. This sounds more like the tale of a coward  
told by a retired soldier.

#### **unnecessary burden**

Taylor simply ran for dear life, which he so recklessly  
wasted in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and for which  
he must pay, or Mrs. Sirleaf will be taking  
unnecessary burden on her conscience for the blood  
of the innocent people killed and maimed, during a  
war Taylor is 'sine qua non factor' of. Had it not  
been for Taylor's initial onslaught, there probably  
would have been no war in West Africa.

Taylor had no option but to surrender, and in seeking  
to preserve his own life, (the advancing forces would  
have killed him if he did not,) he was forced to  
surrender to Nigeria, whose soldiers suffered  
thousands of casualties during battles with his rebels  
in Liberia and those he supported in Sierra Leone.  
Instead of treating Taylor as the common war criminal  
and prisoner he is, Obasango is playing the Jesus.  
But Jesus the Good Shepherd would lay down his  
life for one of his flock. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf should  
emulate this example; she should be prepared to lay  
down her life for her citizen's, not the other way

round. Most leaders would rather have a whole  
nation executed just to preserve their own.  
When rebels attacked and overran Freetown in  
1997, there was no talk of 'saving lives of innocent

the  
on'

civilians; the option of having Foday Sankoh and his generals in charge was too nauseating for the government in exile to countenance. ECOMOG advanced and cleared the rebels. Did not innocent people die?

How pleasant it is now when we reflect on what virtue there is in resisting evil, and how foolish we would have been if we had succumbed to calls for a cease-fire, which the government foolishly did in January 1999.

Obasongo's argument that Taylor was the sine qua non factor to Liberia's peace is hollow and irrelevant now that Liberia is stable. It also smirks of suspicion: might it be that there is a dead rat under the floorboards? Dead rats - unlike skeletons in cupboards, which could be hid easily, do smell, and it is not difficult

**Liberia and Sierra Leone collapsed because incumbents and 'wanabes' clashed. Taylor wanted to be President, so did Foday Sankoh**

to tell where the stink is coming from.

If, indeed, there is nothing to hide, Taylor must stand trial for crimes he committed in Sierra Leone. And if that would necessarily jeopardize peace in the sub region, which is what Obasongo is unequivocally telling us, then Taylor is still a real threat, and all the more reason why he should be tried.

While this writer contemplated Mrs. Sirleaf predicament, his skepticism seemed preempted, and as confounded by breaking news that she has told former transitional government members to stay in the country pending a financial audit. Mrs. Sirleaf will soon find out that fighting corruption threatens peace and stability more than trying Taylor for serious crimes against humanity.

**Sankoh and Taylor**

Africa must embrace the international community, and make the best out of that relationship to benefit the people, and not themselves. Liberia and Sierra Leone collapsed because incumbents and 'wanabes' clashed. Taylor wanted to be President, so did Foday Sankoh; both adopted the 'by any means necessary' policy and massacred their way through to power - Foday Sankoh did not live to account for his crimes.

When a crowd of protestors marched to Foday Sankoh's residence in the climax of the disarmament and demobilization program, the government, in the bosom of UNAMSIL's protection, arrested and charged him with murder, because of the deaths caused by his bodyguards.

Weak and vulnerable, Sierra Leone relied on outside support, which Nigeria provided initially, closely supported by the UN, US and UK.

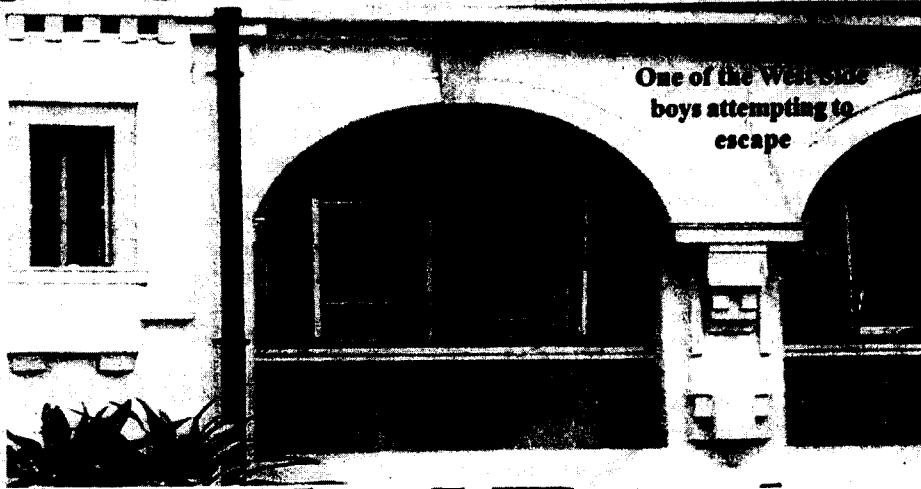
# 'Westside Boys' demand end of trial

*By Alford Dillet*

Members of the defunct junta militia- Westside Boys who are currently on trial for charges at the High Court in Freetown presided over by Justice Patrick O. Hamilton Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February stormed the Law Court Building, demanding an immediate end to their case which according to them has dragged on for more than six years.

Work in the entire Law Courts Building came to a standstill when Foday Kallay and others were about to be returned to detention at the Pademba Road Prisons as the matter was again adjourned to the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. The ensuing action of the Westside Boys according to

*continued page 2*



One of the West Side boys attempting to escape

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# 'Westside Boys' demand end of trial

*from front page*

them was the failure of the presiding Judge Hamilton to hand down judgement which was instead promised reportedly on the accused that he needed time to peruse the whole trial document. As the adjournment date was announced, the Courtroom broke into pandemonium as the accused persons refused to be taken to the Prisons. The stand-off lasted for about three hours as they protested about the unfairness in the trial and the entire justice system in the country. They spoke at random, raining


invectives and all sorts of remarks targeting the Government. In an informal talk with the Spectator, the 10<sup>th</sup> accused- Foday Kamara disclosed that long before the Christmas vacation, Justice Hamilton had promised to give judgment in the matter since both Prosecution and Defence had closed their case, only for them to be conveyed to and from Court regularly without even any sitting on the matter. The accused added that there is no case to answer and that they therefore should be set free instead of languishing at the Pademba Road Prisons. Foday

further disclosed that over the past few months, over forty inmates have died at the Prisons and also complained about the intimidation they face in the hands of Prison Officers coupled with the lack of medical attention. The fiasco almost became violent when one Prison Officer was slapped on the face as he tried to calm down the accused. With the timely intervention of Senior Police and Prison Officers including Supt. Keatu Gibson of the OSD, who pleaded with the Westside Boys and promised that the authorities concerned would be contacted.

[Print](#)

## Sierra Leonean Militia Leader Testifies Before War Crimes Court

By James Butty  
Washington, DC  
02 February 2006

*listen to interview with journalist Kelvin Lewis* 

In Sierra Leone, a former militia leader who played a key role in the defeat of the brutal RUF rebels has been testifying before the UN-backed Special Court investigating war crimes in Sierra Leone. Chief Hinga Norman led the Civil Defense Forces militia that fought alongside the army in the country's decade-long civil war. Included under his command were tribal hunters known as the Kamajors. In the absence of former Liberian president Charles Taylor and RUF leader Foday Sankoh, Hinga Norman is the best-known figure to appear before the court.

Norman was indicted on 7 March 2003 on 8 counts of crimes against humanity, violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Among the crimes he is charged with are looting and burning, terrorizing civilians, and use of child soldiers.

Journalist Kelvin Lewis is founder and editor of the Awoko newspaper and reports for the Voice of America. He told English to Africa reporter James Butty from Freetown that Hinga Norman has been explaining to the Special Court how he came to be the coordinator for the Civil Defense Force.

"He said that while he was in exile in Guinea four ambassadors knocked on his hotel door, and those were the American ambassador, the British high commissioner, the Nigerian high commissioner and the UN special representative to Sierra Leone. He said they took him to President Kabbah, where the Nigerian high commissioner told President Kabbah and him that the various governments and institutions were ready to support Sierra Leone to come back to democracy only if the people would come together to form a pro-government force. And Chief Hinga Norman said this was when President Kabbah appointed him as coordinator of the Civil Defense Force."

Reporter Kelvin Lewis says Norman told the court that President Kabbah should also be indicted as leader of the Civil Defense Force. In terms of whether the court is any more significant now that Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh, its two most prominent targets, cannot appear, Lewis says:

"For the most part Sierra Leoneans have an interest in the court because some things are being revealed there which were not revealed during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and they are learning some things which they never knew about, how the war came about. That is the only sustained interest. But in terms of the court being very, very significant, like an instrument that will come and end impunity and that sort of thing, I don't think that goes down with Sierra Leoneans any more."

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The people of Niger need **our help today!**

## Taylor Issue Not Secondary

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

EDITORIAL

February 2, 2006

Posted to the web February 2, 2006

Your Excellency: You recently hosted the premiere press conference at the Parlors of the Executive Mansion and answered multiple questions from local and international journalists.

At that forum, you ably addressed many issues of the nation and of the sub-region. Also, many questions were posed to you including the weighty one of government's impression of pressures being brought to bear for the prosecution of Charles Taylor. Your answer to that particular question, specifically the statement that you are just tired with the Taylor issue has caused considerable disquiet in the civil society as well as in diplomatic quarters.

Madam, continuing outcry and concerns are being expressed that the democratically-elected government should be at the forefront of the crusade against impunity. These concerns perfectly square in with your elections promises. One of the promises was that upon assuming headship of the government, you would be ready to take decisive and critical steps, however personally perilous, to uphold good governance and reconciliation. Human rights and pro-democracy groups have been vocal over what they see as inconsistencies with such previous noble positions. They believe as we do that the other road now being traversed is confrontational and infuriating to the aspirations of Liberia's international partners. Can we make progress in reconstruction without their assistance? For us the indisputable answer is 'No!' This is why we think your early confession of exhaustion about the Taylor issue is totally unacceptable for a government that noticeably enjoys unmatched international support and goodwill. The government must not express tiredness with the paramount demand for Taylor to face the judgment seat of de Silva in Freetown. Taylor's appearance in Sierra Leone is a demand that must not be swept aside for expediency or put aside in the name of development. We say so because as important as development is, it can not supersede national and regional security concerns.

Your Excellency, border porosity and migratory rebellion that fuel the need for collective security mechanisms in the subregion will be thwarted with a member-state's cold shouldering of the plights of others. Genuine and comprehensive peace and stability in the region will only be achieved through consistent follow up of the complex interconnectedness of these issues. Moreover, the pains and scars of Sierra Leoneans as a consequence of the exported terror of Major Taylor and his adjutants must be seen in the context of regional and human solidarity.

There is another wider dimension of this issue that requires persistent action from this government. The inaugural promise has been made that no square-inch of Liberian territory will be used to destabilize other nations in the subregion. On January 16, your Sierra Leonean counterpart, Ahmed Tejan Kabba who graced your swearing-in ceremonies, was apparently assured of the preparedness of this regime for greater collaboration to dislodge impunity. If the tiredness approach gains the stronghold, it is to be expected that he would have second thoughts of the issues. But you are certainly not tired. You just can't afford to be tired at this critical time.



Madam President, you are required to communicate officially with the Nigerian government to release the war crimes indictee to the jurisdiction of the special court. This is the stance of the Nigerian Government without ifs and buts. That government has voiced its preparedness to release the indictee upon order of any constitutionally elected administration in Liberia.

Explore this possibility and shift the blame in another quarter. If the Federal Government downplays your communication, the world is there to know the difference. How can you now be exhausted amidst untried possibilities of diplomacy and verbal protestations? You are up to the task and should unravel this major issue as an experienced and astute politician. What is difficult for the first female President of Africa and the Iron Lady of Liberia? We believe that there is no need to complain of exhaustion in the formative days of this administration.

In fact, Madam, as we see it, no serious reconstruction of this devastated nation can be achieved without definitive resolution of the Taylor issue. This government in nascence must not be tired; rather it should be vigorous with consultations and negotiations to unravel the delicate and complex web spun around this thorn in the flesh and heart of the young regime.

We believe that your recent regional tours sharpened your vistas to sift the various viewpoints surrounding this matter to evolve a definite policy. It is the most pressing matter with tentacles in multiple directions that your government will perennially face until its resolution. One of the major achievements of this administration rests with seeking an early solution to this nerve wrecking problem that has coincidentally but historically caught up with you.

These are the various angles of the delicate Taylor-borne dilemma facing this administration. There is need however to do the right thing. No amount of self-pity and pretence of helplessness will remedy the situation. It is time to be true partners of the international community by taking the appropriate steps and concrete actions to make Taylor appear at the great white throne in Freetown.

Where there are any possible national security and political reasons necessitating the relegation of the Taylor issue, the best your government can do is to say so and start an international campaign to promote those reasons over and above the eradication of impunity as embodied in the prosecution of Taylor for war crimes. Remember the restoration of rule of law is the key promise of this government and you can't possibly fight corruption, mismanagement, and human rights violations without voting against impunity by helping Taylor get justice. It is the achievement of this coup that will make your lieutenants to know that you are ready for the rule of law.

Thank you once more for understanding these concerns and appropriately stroking to the music that must close all loopholes against impunity through war crimes, human rights abuses and violations from unrefined power for material gratification and self aggrandizement.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 Feb 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Liberian leader sacks entire finance ministry in anti-graft drive**

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Feb 2, 2006 (AFP) - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf summarily sacked the whole staff of around 300 in Liberia's finance ministry during a surprise visit as she kept her promise to deal mercilessly with corruption. "All employees of this ministry are hereby dismissed, and will have to apply to come back if they wish," Sirleaf, known as the "Iron Lady" since even before she was sworn into office last month, told employees late Wednesday. "The ones that will be accepted will be those who have the competence of being employees of this sensitive ministry," the west African country's newly elected president told a meeting attended by journalists.

**UNHCR expands activities to help Liberian IDPs realise their goal of a new school**

BALAMA, Liberia, 2 Feb (UNHCR) - Young men sweat under a merciless midday sun to build a new school in record time, demonstrating both UNHCR's expanding efforts to reintegrate internally displaced Liberians and the importance of letting communities decide their own priorities. The volunteers handing bricks one by one to their companions are former internally displaced persons (IDPs) who recently returned to their forest village of Balama, home to some 3,500 residents in Liberia's central Bong County.

**International Clips on West Africa****Cote d'Ivoire: Anti-UN Sentiment Rumbles On**

Abidjan, Feb 01, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The influential speaker of the Ivorian parliament, Mamadou Koulibaly, said on Wednesday that far from helping bring peace to Cote d'Ivoire, the United Nations peacekeeping force was instead contributing to friction.

"Initially convened to be a solution to the Ivorian crisis, the presence of the UN has become a part of the Ivorian conflict," Koulibaly said in the pro-government daily, *Le Courrier*. Koulibaly, considered one of President Laurent Gbagbo's most staunch supporters, also accused the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) of carrying out an "attempted coup d'etat" and alleged key members of the mission were "accomplices of France," the former colonial power.

## **COTE D IVOIRE: UN will not tolerate more violence, Annan warns**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb 2006 (IRIN) - UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Wednesday warned both the president and army chief of staff of Cote d'Ivoire that they would be held personally responsible in the case of renewed attacks on UN staff or installations. "The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about reported threats against United Nations personnel in Côte d'Ivoire, and the possibility of major violence being unleashed in Abidjan and other areas," Annan's spokesman said in a statement released in New York.

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **UNMIL Advocates Debt Relief for Liberia**

*(Daily Observer, The News, The Analyst, New Vision, Liberian Express and The Informer)*

- Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance Jordan Ryan recently requested the World Bank to consider debt relief for Liberia and financing of labour-intensive projects, which aim to address the country's high unemployment rate, especially among its youth and ex-combatants. He spoke in a meeting in Monrovia with a World Bank delegation headed by the Counselor to the President of World Bank Ms. Robin Cleveland.

#### **President Sacks Entire Finance Ministry Staff**

*(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, New Vision and The Informer)*

- In keeping with her pledge to deal with corruption in government, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday paid an off-the-cuff visit to the Ministry of Finance and declared all employees of the ministry sacked. She said those wishing to continue working at the Finance Ministry must reapply and go through a screening process.

#### **New Passport to be Printed in Liberia Says Foreign Minister-Designate**

*(The News)*

- Amid concern that the Liberian passport has been devolved to criminal activities, Foreign Minister-designate George Wallace said during confirmation hearings yesterday that the printing of the new passport would henceforth be done in Liberia to avert irregularities and fraud.

### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

#### **President Dismisses Employees of the Ministry of Finance**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Special Representative Alan Doss Says UNMIL Will Work with the Kimberley Process**

- In a meeting with a delegation from the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme yesterday, Special Representative of the Secretary General Alan Doss said that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will work with the Scheme. He recounted that the Mission has already contributed to government's efforts to satisfy the requirements for the lifting of sanctions on diamonds.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Deputy Special Representative Entreats World Bank to Consider Debt Relief for Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **United Nations Women Development Fund Ambassador Visits Liberia Soon**

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) newly appointed Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman will visit Liberia in actualization of her pledge to tour devastated countries to ascertain UNIFEM's activities for women.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Deputy Finance Minister-Designate and Rights Activist Face Senate probe**

- Deputy Finance Minister-designate Francis Karpeh and Human Rights activist Melvin Page were expected to appear before the Senate Ways, Means and Finance Committee in its quest to investigate an allegation by Mr. Page that Mr. Karpeh had overturned the results of the bidding processes to privatize the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation and the Cavalla Rubber Plantation in Maryland County.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Gulf of Guinea Project Representative Calls for Laws to Protect Fishing Industry**

- In an interview, the Gulf of Guinea Project Special Representative Theodore Djama has called on the Liberian government to enact a law to improve Liberia's fishing industry.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **University of Liberia to Run Trimester Programs**

- University of Liberia President Al Hassan Conteh said that the University will run a trimester system with each semester lasting 12 weeks.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **United States Embassy Celebrates African-American History Month**

- Speaking to students yesterday, United States Embassy Public Affairs Officer Meg Riggs said that the Embassy has begun the celebration of African-American History Month with a film show on the struggle for equality in the United States.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

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

### **Grand Gedeon Says It Is Irrational to Act against the New Government**

- Reacting to report in a local daily, a prominent citizen of Grand Gedeh County, Post and Telecommunications Minister-designate Jackson Doe said that it is unreasonable for anyone to engage in subversive acts against the new Liberian Government, adding that people of the county fully support the outcome of the election that brought Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to power.

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

### **Rights Advocates Say Halting the Removal of Street Peddlers Shows Weakness on the President's Part**

- A local advocacy group, the Citizens against Societal Ills Executive Director Samuel Jallah said that the President has begun to show her weakness by stopping the police from demolishing the kiosks of street peddlers around Monrovia

### **Technical Training Institute Alumni Donate Mattresses to Health Posts**

- Speaking during the presentation of mattresses to health centers in Kakata, Margibi County, Booker Washington Institute Vice Principal for Administration James Lonpeh said the presentation was the institution's way of helping to address the needs of the health posts.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*