

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, 3 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Ext 7217

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Trumpet

Tuesday, 3 June 2008

Female Judge Becomes President For Special Court

Austrian born female

Contd page 8



Female Judge Becomes President

From front page

Judge, Justice Renate Winter has been elected as presiding judge of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for a term of one year. This was revealed in a press release from the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Justice Reanate Winter succeeds Justice George Gelaga-King; a Sierra Leonean who served as president since year 2006.

According to the release, Justice Winter

had previously served as International ludge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo. She is an expert in Family Law, Juvenile Justice System, the female jus-

tice issues, pedophilia, child labour and the role of the media in advocacy. Special court sources say that Justice Reante Winter has been a judge at the

Vienna Youth Court since 1981, and has dealt with issues of organised crimes and restorative justice. She joined the Special Court in 2002 and has served as acting President for the court from March to May 2004



By Justice Gelaga King

Accordingly, I would reverse the convictions under Article 6(1) for aiding and abetting murder under Count 2 and cruel treatment under Count 4, and enter a finding of Not Guilty under Counts 2 and 4. Let me end up by asking the question: having regard to the Historical Facts in this case, could it also be said that those of the International Community, as Great Britain, the United States and Nigeria, who mandated Kondewa, ECOMOG, the Civil Defence Forces and their allies to fight for the restoration of the democratically elected Government and are, apparently, in a superior/subordinate relationship with Kondewa and the others, are guilty of War Crimes?

Likewise, did the ICTY investigate allegations made by Western academics and Serb politicians, who accused NATO officials of War Crimes during the 1999 bombing of a Serb TV station killing journalists, and the lethal bombing of a railway bridge whilst a train was passing over it? If it is a question of victor's justice, then, in my opinion, it must first be experimented with, or practised in a developed State like Kosovo and not in a developing and young Country as Sierra Leone. Otherwise, it is a sure and certain recipe to undermine the stability and security of Sierra Leone. And accusations of double standards might arise!

As Charles Margai, counsel for Kondewa eruditely put it in his plea for leniency to the Trial Chamber:

"We thank God, My Lords, that the war is over, but this war was described and has been described as the most brutal known to mankind. We should not lose sight of that. If it were not for the sacrifice of the CDF, God knows whether some of us, including my learned friend Kamara, would be here today. That I submit, My Lords, is a factor to be considered, because otherwise, as a sentence is severe and there occurs a rebel war, whether in Sierra Leone or elsewhere, Government militias are going to ask themselves the question: Is it advisable for us to intervene? If we do, might we not be treated in the same manner as Allieu Kondewa and others?" Emphasis added.

I understand and appreciate his concerns, not only for his client, but a fortiori, for the overriding interests of his Country, Sierra Leone. As the Trial Chamber Judges put it, also eruditely: "The contribution of the two Accused Persons to the establishment of the much desired peace in Sierra Leone and the difficult, risky, selfless and for a very sizeable number of their CDF/Kamajors, the supreme sacrifices that they made to achieve this through a bloody conflict, is in itself a factor that stands significantly in mitigation in their favour. In fact, the medal awarded to Moinina Fofana, after the restoration, by the reinstated President Kabbah, is a testimony of gratitude and appreciation of Sierra Leonean Society which the President incarnates." Emphasis added. I agree, without any reservation whatsoever. The learned Trial Chamber Judges made it abundantly clear that the mitigating factor was the fight for the restoration of the democratically elected Government, and not any far-fetched thesis about an unwarranted allegation of a so-called "just war"!

Disposition

I would grant Kondewa's Appeal in its entirety and enter a finding of Not Guilty on all the Counts for which my colleagues have him Guilty and acquit him on Counts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Introduction

On the 28th May 2008, the Appeals Chamber by a majority, Justice Gelaga King dissenting, allowed the Prosecution's Appeal in respect of Counts 1 and 3, reversed the Trial Chamber's Decision and found Fofana and Kondewa guilty on those counts. It affirmed, Justice Gelaga King, dissenting, the Trial Chamber's verdict of guilty of Counts 2 and 4.

On the same date the Appeals Chamber, Justices Gelaga King and Jon Kamanda dissenting, delivered a Sentencing Judgement against both Accused in respect of the Counts of which they were convicted.

Dissenting opinion from sentencing judgement

It will be recalled that in my Partially Dissenting

Dissenting opinion on CDF appeals judgment

Opinion I came to the conclusion that Kondewa was not guilty of any of the eight Counts charged in the Indictment. It will be recalled also that Fofana did not appeal.

It is my misfortune to have to dissent, once again, from my learned colleagues. With respect, I believe that they went outside the ambit of the relevant statutory provisions relating to Penalties and Sentencing and, in my opinion, interfered, unjustifiably, with the unfettered discretion to the Trial Chamber.

The applicable law

The Statute of the Special Court, which is the primordial binding source of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, provides as follows:

"Article 19: Penalties

1. The Trial Chamber shall impose upon a convicted person other than a juvenile offender imprisonment for a specified number of years. In determining the terms of imprisonment, the Trial Chamber shall, as appropriate, have recourse to the practice regarding prison sentences in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the national courts of Sierra Leone. Emphasis added.

2. In imposing sentences, the Trial Chamber should take into account such factors as the gravity of the offence and the individual circumstances of the convicted person." Emphasis added.

1. Rule 101: Penalties, provides:

"(B) In determining the sentence, the Trial Chamber shall take into account the factors mentioned in Article 19(2) of the Statute, as well as factors as:

- (i) Any aggravating circumstances;
- (ii) Any mitigating circumstances including the substantial cooperation with the Prosecutor by the convicted person before or after the conviction;...."

(C) The Trial Chamber shall indicate whether multiple sentences shall be served consecutively or concurrently

The Sentences

The Trial Chamber, Justice Bankole Thompson dissenting, imposed multiple sentences to run concurrently for both Accused: Fofana, a total of a term of imprisonment of six years and Kondewa, eight years.

The Appeals Chamber, Justice Gelaga King and Kamanda dissenting, has revised the Trial Chamber's sentences as follows: Fofana, a total term of imprisonment for multiple offences to run concurrently XX years and Kondewa, XX years.

Prosecution's Ground 10: Sentencing

The Prosecution's Ground 10 is on sentencing and it is stated as in the sub-heading 3. It then goes on to contend "that the Trial Chamber erred in law and in fact, and committed a procedural error (in the sense that there has been a discernible error in the Trial Chamber's sentencing discretion), in imposing the sentences that it did, in the case of both Accused. The errors in the Sentencing Judgment are set out below."

Alleged Errors of the Trial Chamber

The Prosecution alleged ten errors of the Trial Chamber. In errors 2 and 10, the Prosecution did not state whether they are errors in law or in fact. This infringes the provisions of Article 20(1) of the Statute which states that grounds of appeal should be on an error on a question of law invalidating the decision, and/or an error of fact which has occasioned a miscarriage of justice. I, therefore, will not consider errors 2 and 10.

The Appeals Chamber considered the remaining 8 errors alleged by the Prosecution and dismissed all except one - the sixth which reads: "treating the 'just cause' of the Accused as a mitigating factor."

Whether 'just cause' is a Mitigating Factor

The Appeals Chamber states that "the Trial Chamber was in error in taking into consideration 'just cause' and motive of civic duty in exercising its sentencing discretion." I disagree. It states further that the Trial Chamber proceeded on an erroneous basis and that it is entitled to revise the sentences handed down by the Trial Chamber. I disagree.

Whether 'just cause' was pleaded in mitigation by Kondewa

With the greatest respect to my learned colleagues, at



Justice Gelaga King

no time did the Trial Chamber take into consideration 'just cause' in the way my colleagues put it, in exercising its sentencing discretion. This is palpably and factually incorrect. What in fact, the Trial Chamber took into account as a mitigating factor is the plea that:

"[t]he acts of the Accused and those of the Kamajors for which they have respectively been found guilty, did not emanate from a resolve to destabilise the established Constitutional Order. Rather, and on the contrary, the CDF/Kamajors was a fighting force that was mobilised and was implicated in the conflict in Sierra Leone to support a legitimate cause which, as we have already seen, was to secure the democratically elected Government of President Kabbah, which had been illegally ousted through a Coup d'Etat orchestrated and carried out on the 25th of May 1997, by a wing of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces that later constituted and baptised itself as the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)."

In the above quote, there is no mention of 'just cause' which only appears when the Trial Chamber was commenting on the defence of 'Necessity' which had been propounded by Justice Bankole Thompson in his Dissenting Opinion. This is what the Trial Chamber said:

"The Chamber further opines that validating the defence of Necessity in International Criminal Law would create a justification for what offenders may term and plead as a 'just cause' or a 'just war' even though serious violations of International Humanitarian Law would have been committed. This we observe, would negate the resolve and determination of the International Community to combat these crimes which have the common characteristics of being heinous, gruesome or degrading of innocent victims or of the civilian population that it intends to protect."

At the trial, the Accused did not put forward a defence of necessity - it was raised by Justice Thompson in his Dissenting Opinion. In any event, it is my considered opinion that it was wrong for the majority of the Trial Chamber to purport to sit, as if it were an Appeals Chamber, in judgement of Justice Thompson's Opinion as to Necessity as a defence. That right and privilege belong exclusively to the Appeals Chamber. All the Judges of the Trial Chamber are of coeval jurisdiction and they are, therefore, not competent to pass judgement on each other's opinion.

Let me give another conclusive example of what the Trial Chamber deems to be a mitigating circumstance, if only to prove that it was not 'just cause' as my colleagues, with respect, erroneously held to be the case. The passage is referred to by my colleagues as well. The Trial Chamber held that "although the commission of these crimes transcends acceptable limits, albeit in defending a cause that is palpably just and defensible, such as acting in defence of constitutionality by engaging in a struggle or a fight that was geared towards the restoration of the ousted democratically elected Government of President Kabbah, it certainly, in such circumstances constitutes a mitigating circumstance in favour of the two Accused persons." Emphasis added.

Open Letter to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

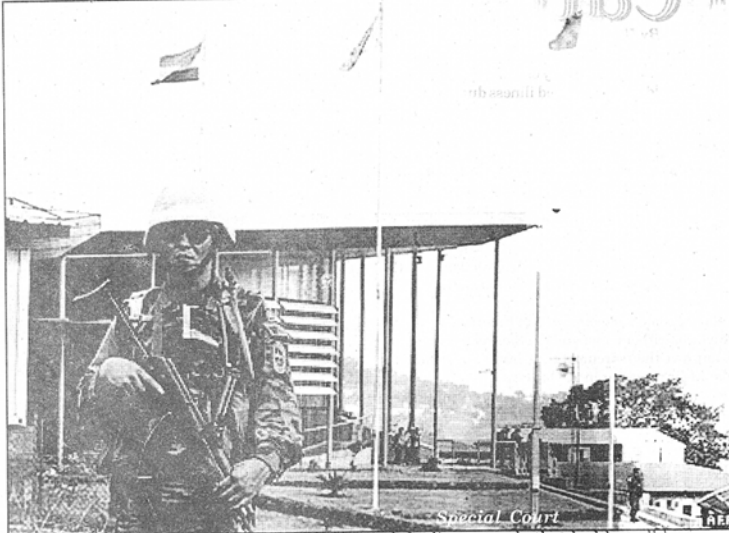
I am a Sierra Leonean who has been out of the country since the end of the invasion of Freetown in 1999, by the RUF rebels. I lived in Freetown then and I was working for the UN. I decided however to leave the country after I deduced from what transpired that Sierra Leone had no hope. I lost property during the invasion, and was only lucky not to have been abducted or killed, as my family and I came face-to-face with the RUF rebels, when we were ordered to evacuate our homes.

Really, I have not been following the proceedings of your court as I felt that you would have the good sense to mete out justice only to those who initiated and committed atrocities against civilians. But lo and behold that has not been the case, as I have just read that you have decided to increase the sentences of two CDF/Kamajor fighters. THIS IS A GRAVE INJUSTICE and I strongly believe that it is specifically because of actions like these that we had the civil/rebel war in the first place.

Please note that I lived through the entire invasion of Freetown, sleeping with my family on the floor, underneath a flight of stairs for more than a week. I came into contact with both the RUF rebels and the CDF fighters. The RUF rebels selected me from about 15 people and ordered me to give them everything I had on me or face grave consequences if I allowed them to search my pockets and my person themselves. I gave them what I had including a not insignificant amount of hard currency. They mumbled that I looked like those who were supporting the Nigerian troops in the country so I had to hand over all I had fast or else. I survived that encounter to tell this story simply because of divine intervention and nothing else. I also came into contact with the Kamajors just after our area of town was liberated by the Nigerian troops. This happened when I had to attend to some urgent official issues and my colleagues and I needed a truckload of Kamajors for our protection. They gave us protection at a time when there were still remnants of RUF rebels in the surrounding areas.

Now, as a Sierra Leonean who really did not understand the need to prolong the rebel war in the first place, or why the RUF rebels were attacking primarily civilians instead of the government they were fighting, I was eternally grateful for the protection of the CDF fighters and their presence in our part of town brought a welcome relief to all and sundry, irrespective of ethnicity. So, you can see how diametrically opposed my experiences with the two sides were.

It is my strong belief therefore, and that I believe of the majority of Sierra Leoneans, that without the Kamajors and the Nigerian troops, there would have been horrendous atrocities perpetrated on the people of Freetown and possibly the entire country. Now, you people in your comfortable offices sit to pass judgement based on some law originally designed by white people for people who are literate. You apply foreign ideas that clash with our African experiences and then you end up convicting innocent men that were only defending themselves and their communities. You have possibly inadvertently established a reason for yet another future rebellion in Sierra Leone and you have not helped our cause one bit. It is injustices like these that convince people like me to never return to Sierra Leone. It is obvious that governments in the country who are relying on people like you will NEVER be able to turn the country around. NEVER.



Sierra Leone will always remain a basket case, because of the cumulative actions of people like you.

The war in Sierra Leone was not a conventional war as people of your kind will define it. It was not a war between two states, and so most of the Geneva Conventions would probably not apply. This was simply a bloodletting African-style fought between mostly illiterate or semi-literate people with no officially-recognised military training. The majority of the combatants, with the exception of the Nigerian troops, were not recognised military forces. These are the type of people America today refer to as 'unlawful enemy combatants'. And this has given the Bush administration the right to commit all kinds of torture against them. Why? Because they are defending the American people against unconventional combatants. Now, I don't see any court in the world trying the Americans and convicting them. But yet, you came out of the blue and convicted people who were probably acting just as the Americans are acting now. Why were you able to do that? Because Sierra Leone is not America; Sierra Leone is banana republic. That's why. Sierra Leoneans do not have the resources that Americans have to mount a challenge to such a travesty of common sense and justice.

You surely would have known by now that the Kamajors were defending the majority of Sierra Leoneans against a well-armed group of drug-crazed vagabonds. What do you expect them to have done with the RUF rebels and their collaborators who initiated the atrocities in the first place? Read the constitution of Sierra Leone or the Geneva Conventions to decide how to fight them? How do you expect people with minimal education and no formal training as soldiers to understand such documents?

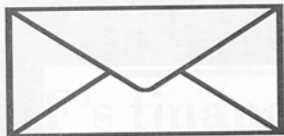
The RUF rebels were illegal combatants, plain and simple, and they together with Charles Taylor's men would have wrecked such havoc on the country that you would not even have had the stomach to constitute any sort of special court. Any attempt to have fought them as literate white people would fight a war, would have been seen as a sign of weakness and would have doomed the entire effort of the CDF fighters. Whatever actions were taken against the RUF rebels and their collaborators in

defending a people that had lost all hope were necessary for the CDF to prevail, and cannot now be judged as war crimes. Or are you imagining that these semi-literate or illiterate fighters should have devised some other strategy to prevail against the RUF? Do you really think that would have been possible? Do you have any precedence where poorly educated people have observed the 'nice' conventions of war? How would anyone expect such people to know about such conventions in the first place? What about wars in the past where the victors committed atrocities but no one ever convicted them because they were seen to have been fighting for the common good?

Your judgement therefore is a disgrace and a shameful crime against the humanity of all Sierra Leoneans who had to endure the atrocities of the RUF. It is a crime against our humanity insofar as that humanity, above all, consists of an eternal sense of gratitude to the CDF. People who were not trained militarily but who nonetheless rose to the challenge of defending their country. Your judgement is a crime against our sense of justice and fair play insofar as you have punished the aggressors as well as the victims who were only defending themselves. Again, you are able to treat these people like this just because they are poor and not highly educated, irrespective of whatever legal representation they might have had.

The 28th of May 2008, the day of your judgement is therefore a sad day in the history of Sierra Leone. I am sure that while you are still around, we will have many more sad days to come, as you care only about sending a message that impunity will not be tolerated. You do not care about the common good of a nation that is teetering on the brink. The difference between the RUF and the CDF was that the latter were fighting for the common good, while the former were half-baked criminals intent on wrecking the country because of some perceived injustices previously committed against them. The CDF could not have fought the RUF like 'nice' white people who are the source of the laws that you used to convict the two men. They should not have been charged to begin with, let alone have their sentences increased. This is all surreal to me.

Je Wai
In the USA



30 May 2008

I am a Sierra Leonean who has been out of the country since the end of the invasion of Freetown in 1999, by the RUF rebels. I lived in Freetown then and I was working for the UN. I decided however to leave the country after I deduced from what transpired that Sierra Leone had no hope. I lost property during the invasion, and was only lucky not to have been abducted or killed, as my family and I came face-to-face with the RUF rebels, when we were ordered to evacuate our homes.

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The RUF rebels selected me from about 15 people and ordered me to give them everything I had on me or face grave consequences if I allowed them to search my pockets and my person themselves. I gave them what I had including a not insignificant amount of hard currency. They mumbled that I looked like those who were supporting the Nigerian troops in the country so I had to hand over all I had fast or else. I survived that encounter to tell this story simply because of divine intervention and nothing else.

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Open Letter to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

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BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 2 June 2008

Charles Taylor's war crimes trial resumes Monday after a week's break.

Defence lawyer Terry Munyard recommenced the cross-examination of Prosecution witness Samuel Kargbo .

As BBCWST/SFCG Alphonsus Zeon reports, Sierra Leone's Former President Tejan Kabbah, deposed at the time of the AFRC/RUF junta, is linked to the diamond mining in rebel controlled Kono District.

ZEON: Samuel Kargbo said an AFRC/RUF Supreme council meeting discussed strong suspicions that while deposed President Kabbah was in exile in Guinea he was using his Sierra Leone Peoples Party members in the diamond exploitation in Sierra Leone .

KARGBO: Well, by then we had a report that some people who were strong supporters of the SLPP and who were in Kono were pretending to be loyal to us, the AFRC, and we allowed them - they were mining and they were sending diamonds to Guinea at that time.

MUNYARD: They were sending items to Guinea which is where Tejan Kabbah was with the rest of his government. Is that correct?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: And so what was the deal that Tejan Kabbah was going to do with the diamonds and Sani Abacha?

KARGBO: Well, by then we did not know...

ZEON: The Prosecution accuses Taylor of ordering the rebels to hold the diamond-rich Kono while he supplied them arms in exchanged for the diamonds.

West African troops later moved in and restored the elected government of Tejan Kabbah.

Kargbo said long before the ECOMOG intervention, the government of Charles Taylor had recognized the AFRC/RUF junta shortly after they took over in May of 1997. But Taylor's lawyer Munyard said this could not be possible as Taylor was inaugurated four months after the rebels seized State House in Freetown Munyard said during that period officials of the ruling junta were not allowed to pass through Liberia to attend their meeting in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan .

MUNYARD: the ECOWAS leaders were refusing to recognise the junta, weren't they?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: Every single one of them?... Who do you say recognised your junta government?

KARGBO: Well in the ECOWAS there was Liberia, there was Burkina Faso and there is Niger and those recognised us, so it was not all of them.

MUNYARD: When was the meeting at Abidjan?

KARGBO: I cannot recall the right date.

MUNYARD: But the document that we are looking at is about your meeting in the middle of July 1997, isn't it?

KARGBO: Exactly, if that is the date that is there.

MUNYARD: The Abidjan meeting must have been before 19 July. That follows, doesn't it?... Can you remember now how long before your first meeting of the Supreme Council the Abidjan meeting was?

KARGBO: No, I can't recall.

MUNYARD: Do you know the date when Mr Taylor became the President of Liberia?

KARGBO: No.

MUNYARD: Well he wasn't installed in office until 2 August 1997 and so he was not President of Liberia...at the time of the Abidjan trip, do you follow?

KARGBO: Just as I am saying I cannot recall all of these things that he was chairman or president, but I knew that he was a president in Liberia and he was the godfather of the RUF, Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor.

ZEON: Kargbo said two other West African countries, Burkino Faso and Niger, recognized the junta. Defence lawyer Munyard also suggested former Ghanaian President Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings had connection with the junta.

MUNYARD: And the AFRC particularly looked to Jerry Rawlings as a kind of godfather, didn't they?

KARGBO: We did not have anything to do with him, no.

MUNYARD: You didn't have anything to do with Jerry Rawlings of Ghana?

KARGBO: No.

MUNYARD: Well it's right, isn't it, that... Jerry Rawlings sent his foreign minister Victor Gbeho to meet the junta in June 1997, didn't he?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: So why did you say when I asked you, "And the AFRC particularly looked to Jerry Rawlings as a kind of godfather, didn't they - why did you reply, "We did not have anything to do with him, no"

ZEON: Charles Taylor denies connections with the rebels. His lawyers maintain his role in the crisis in Sierra Leone was only in his capacity as a peace mediator. Kargbo's cross-examination is expected to continue Tuesday.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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

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

Newspaper Summary

Several Killed in Tragic Incident during a Soccer Match at Liberia's Main Sports Stadium

- Authorities of a local funeral home have confirmed the death of nine persons who died following a stampede during Sunday's group six qualifying match between Liberia and The Gambia at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex.
- The Samuel Stryker Funeral Parlors said the bodies were taken to the mortuary by officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- Correspondents say one female was among the nine persons who died from suffocation while another person is said to be critical at John F. Kennedy hospital.
- Doctors and aid workers say the fans died from rising temperatures resulting from overcrowdedness at the stadium.
- The stadium has a capacity of 35,000 seat but an estimated 40,000 people entered the stadium to watch the match.

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

UNMIL Chopper Crashed in Sinoe County with No Casualties

(The Informer, The Monitor, National Chronicle, New Democrat, The Inquirer, Public Agenda)

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said one of its helicopters with four crew members aboard crashed in Greenville, Sinoe County.
- A UN statement issued in Monrovia said the helicopter belonging to the UN mission's Ukrainian aviation unit crashed while landing.
- UNMIL said no passenger was on board and none of the four crew members were injured.
- The cause of the crash is under investigation.
- This is the second crash in less than six months. It can be recalled that an UNMIL-chattered Russian helicopter crashed in November 2007 soon after taking off from Ganta to Luguatuo, along the Liberian-Ivorian border killing all three crew members aboard. At the time, the international media supported speculations that the flight was hit by gunfire. But an investigation disputed claims that the chopper was shot down.

Bong Range Out For US\$1.6B Bid... Four Companies in Line

(The News)

- Four international mining companies have expressed interest in operating the Bong Range iron ore deposit, formerly Bong Mines, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy has disclosed. Last week, the Ministry opened the sealed bids for the exploration of the Bong Range iron ore deposit with four bidders contesting. The bidders include Vandanta Resources PLC from India, China Union Investment Ltd.; a Liberian company, Beleh Resources Company, Liberia Ltd., and an Israeli Firm, BSG Resources. According to Land, Mines and Energy Minister, Dr. Eugene Shannon, the investment into the Bong Range is estimated at US\$1.6 billion.

US\$1.2M Allotted for Regional Colleges

(Daily Observer)

- The erection of regional colleges in leeward counties, which is intended to provide access to education to scores of Liberians living outside Monrovia, will start in earnest, Director General

of the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE), Dr. Michael P. Slawon, has announced. Dr. Slawon said the erection of the schools in Nimba and Lofa Counties will begin in July which begins government next fiscal year. He disclosed that US\$1.2 million has been allotted by national government for the erection of three regional colleges. Most students in rural Liberia have to make their way annually to Monrovia for undergraduate studies.

Radio Summary

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

Nine Persons Confirmed Dead After Sunday's International Football Match – Government Launches Investigation into cause of incident

- The Liberian Government says it is deeply saddened by Sunday's tragic incident at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex which resulted into the injury and death of a number of sports fans.
- The preliminary investigation conducted by the Liberian National Police has placed a number of deaths at nine, while 13 others who suffered various injuries are currently receiving treatment at the J.F.K. Medical Centre in Monrovia.
- In a statement issued Monday, the Government says it has launched a full-scale investigation to establish the cause of this tragic incident.
- At the same time, the Government has called upon all Liberians and persons within its borders to observe a moment of silence at 12 noon on Tuesday in commemoration of those who have lost their lives.

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

Employees of NICOL Barred From Entering Office Building

- Employees of the National Insurance Company (NICOL) have been barred from entering the "Old Executive Mansion" in a continuing dispute with the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- The disagreement broke out between the two government agencies last week over who has legitimate rights to the building.
- Dozens of NICOL employees were this morning prevented from entering the building by security men deployed at the entrance of the building.
- A NICOL workers spokesman described the action by the GAC as misconduct but a official of the Auditing Commission said it would not share offices with an entity it is about to audit.

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

UNMIL Chopper Crashes in Greenville, Sinoe County

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

Senator Alarms Over Criteria For Liberians Seeking Top Jobs With Mineral Exploration Companies

- The Senate Committee on Lands, Mines, Energy and Environment has expressed concern over the criteria set for jobs by Mineral and Oil Exploration companies in the country.
- The Chairman of the committee, Senator Cletus Wotorson of Grand Kru County observed that these companies make it a requirement for Liberians seeking top management positions to have at least ten years job experience.
- Senator Wotorson said if this continues more and more Liberians risk losing top companies jobs. He accused the companies of creating job opportunities for foreign nationals at the expense of locals.
