

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



A ship berths at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay, Cline Town

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:

Monday, 3 September 2007

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

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Awareness Times
Monday, 3 September 2007

UNIOSIL

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE
30 August 2007

Dr. Sylvia Blyden
Awareness Times
17 Garrison Street, Freetown.

Dear Dr. Blyden,

It is with great concern that we observe once more a series of re-printed reports in *Awareness Times* discrediting members of the international community and officials of the United Nations in Sierra Leone.

In spite of repeated public appeals by the President, the Government (see enclosed press release of 24 August), the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the Independent Media Commission and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists to refrain from any kind of inflammatory media coverage, the defamatory campaign against the international community, the United Nations and its senior representatives has been continued by your paper over the last days.

It is in our view also not an indication of professional journalism to reproduce reports from another newspaper that retracted from that publication and apologized to the defamed individuals. These inciting re-prints are a serious threat to the stability of the country and put members of the international community at risk - a tendency that cannot be tolerated and might lead to serious consequences.

Our joint effort to secure a peaceful democratic process in the country through transparent, violence-free and credible elections should not be disturbed and jeopardized by irresponsible and liable media reports targeting the international community.

We, therefore, would appreciate your swift action to abide by the code of conduct of the media profession and to refrain from destructive media reporting. Thank you for your continuous cooperation.

Sincerely,

Christian Holger Strohmann, PhD
Chief Public Information Officer/Spokesperson, UNIOSIL
cc: Ms. Bernadette Cole, Chairperson, Independent Media Commission
Mr. I.B. Kargbo, President of SLAJ

GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone*

PRESS RELEASE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
The attention of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has been drawn to the contents of an article in the 23rd August 2007 edition of the Unity Newspaper headlined. "Carlos Valentia Exposed."

The paper alleges that Carlos Valentia, a UN Elections Expert attached to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the ERSG, Mr. Victor Angelo, were part of a conspiracy to bring about the defeat of the Sierra Leone People's Party and victory for the opposition All People's Congress Party in the ongoing Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

The paper further alleges that the conspiracy is supported by the entire international community citing a number of actions taken by various members of the international community and some international organizations as examples. The Government wishes to state that it has absolute confidence in the Executive Representative of the Secretary General here, Mr. Victor Angelo, as well as the Chief Technical Adviser to the NEC, Mr. Carlos Valentia, who have been of such great assistance to our National Electoral Commission.

The Government is satisfied that the two gentlemen have been of much help to the whole electoral process in our nation and contributed to the success that has been achieved so far by the NEC.

While the Government is committed to Press Freedom, we deplore the unwarranted attacks on the credibility of the entire international community including our bilateral partners which are alleged to be promoting a regime change by withholding budgetary support to the Government at the critical moment when elections were so close.

We believe in the good intentions of the International Community including our bilateral partners and know that they will not knowingly engineer the fall of a Government that has won such universal acclaim for good governance - a situation that was achieved with such immense support from them.

The Government will take immediate steps to refer the matter to the Independent Media Commission for a thorough investigation and implement whatever course of action is recommended. This is the official position of government with regard to press attacks against all foreign officials and nationals resident in our country. In the meantime, Government is admonishing all newspapers to refrain from any unwarranted and unfounded allegations against individuals but particularly those who are here to help us with our difficulties.

The law will come down heavily on those who chose to ignore this warning.
24th August, 2007

Concord Times
Monday, 3 September 2007

ECOWAS delegation on solidarity visit

By Mariama Kande

A high powered delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is currently in the country on a solidarity visit.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, ECOWAS's President who made this disclosure Saturday at Miatta conference hall said his delegation comprised of high powered ministers from the West African region.

"Sierra Leone is a member of the Mano River Union. After the

war, there is need for peace consolidation," he said, adding that the building of the democratic process must continue.

He said Sierra Leone needs sustainable economic growth to enhance youth employment.

"Sierra Leoneans should ensure that the remarkable experience of August 11 is improved upon. The world is watching," he stated and noted that the August 11 elections were conducted in a matured

and civilized manner.

The purpose of the meeting includes observation of the status of preparations for the forthcoming runoff in the presidential election.

The delegation also held discussions with representatives of the government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations and other stakeholders.

The delegation consists of Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso, Nigeria and the Ghanaian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone.

Washington Post

Saturday, 1 September 2007

War Crime Prosecutors Issue Call for Action

At Unusual Gathering in N.Y., an Appeal to World Community to Arrest Those Charged

By Nora Boustany

CHAUTAUQUA, N.Y. -- An unprecedented gathering this week of international war crimes prosecutors -- those seeking justice for recent atrocities and two who made history at the Nazi trials at Nuremberg 62 years ago -- issued a joint appeal to the world community to arrest war criminals still at large and turn them over to stand trial.

Meeting at this scenic Victorian-style enclave overlooking a small marina, the prosecutors sought to rekindle the legacy of Nuremberg and send a message to war crimes perpetrators everywhere that no one is above the law.

There was also strong criticism of the United States at the gathering for not fully backing the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for failing to follow the Geneva Conventions in detaining and interrogating terrorism suspects.

"No one is above the law. The law is fair, and the rule of law is more powerful than the rule of the gun," said David M. Crane, the first chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, summing up the group's final communique, called the First Chautauqua Declaration, signed by nine international prosecutors in charge of the major war crimes trials of the past century. Crane is now a professor of international criminal law at Syracuse University.

The appeal named Bosnian Serb leaders Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic; Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda; Ahmad Muhammad Harun, a Sudanese state minister who is accused of organizing attacks on civilians in Darfur; and Rwanda's F?licien Kabuga, among others.

"We do not have coercive powers. We rely on member states. We need states to ensure arrests demanded by the prosecution. If not, our work has a sense of futility," said Hassan Bubacar Jallow of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. "Is the justice we seek, the justice you want?" he asked, reminding those present that the wishes and needs of victims have to be addressed more carefully.

The general thrust of arguments Wednesday during day-long public and private meetings was that certain war crimes suspects remained free because of politics and that arresting them would end a culture of impunity.

"To turn these over is a political decision now, not a legal one. We have done our job," Crane said of the suspects. "Let the word go out to warlords and leaders all over the world. However powerful, however mighty, however feared you may be, the law is above you. The law will bring you down," said Desmond de Silva, deputy prosecutor at the Sierra Leone tribunal.

The nine prosecutors attending were Whitney R. Harris and Henry T. King Jr. from the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg; Luis Moreno-Ocampo, from the ICC; Jallow, from the tribunal for Rwanda; Crane, de Silva and Stephen Rapp from the Sierra Leone court; David Tolbert from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and Robert Petit, from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Together, they ceremoniously signed the declaration after discussions of the advances since Nuremberg and the challenges that remain. The ICC is permanently based in The Hague, and the rest are ad hoc tribunals set up by the United Nations, the United States and regional parties.

The buzz outside the meeting hall was about how former Liberian president Charles Taylor was costing the Sierra Leone tribunal about \$1,000 a day for his two cells in the compound designated by Dutch authorities for the ICC. Taylor found Dutch foods such as smoked fish and croquettes distasteful and demanded "culturally specific foods." After receiving permission to order ground nuts and cassava leaf products from a specialty grocery store, Rapp said, Taylor complained about having to prepare his own food. The costly Sierra Leone case has dragged on since 2002 because of delays demanded by the judges and has triggered a U.N. probe.

A sense of history and camaraderie reigned among the young prosecutors and their older Nuremberg peers. Crane recalled how, after three years in Sierra Leone, and still decompressing from the horror of atrocities, he asked Nuremberg veteran King what it took to cope with the pain.

"About a couple glasses of Scotch" was the answer. With Nuremberg's Grand Hotel serving it at 20 cents a shot, it was the cheapest remedy, said King, 88.

In 1988, Moreno-Ocampo approached another Nuremberg prosecutor, Benjamin Ferencz, to help him understand a nagging mystery about the historic trials: Why try precisely 22 top Nazi officials in the first round of trials? "There were only 22 chairs in the Palace of Justice courtroom," Ferencz answered pragmatically, referring to the largest undamaged courthouse in Germany at the time. Ferencz said in a telephone interview he could not attend the Chautauqua gathering because of a busy travel schedule.

Rumors on the sidelines of the meeting said Ferencz and King, though mutual admirers, were also rivals, one a graduate of Harvard, the other of Yale. There was also an age issue. King has been written up as the youngest prosecutor at Nuremberg, when in fact Ferencz, born on March 11, 1920, was just months younger. King had tackled the case of Albert Speer, who ran the German war production machinery and whom King describes as a window into Adolf Hitler's soul. Ferencz dealt with the Einsatzgruppen killing squads.

Harris, who turned 95 on the eve of the Chautauqua meeting, told of how he stared in the face of Rudolf Hoess and listened to his confession: "I commanded Auschwitz until December 1943 and estimate that at least two and a half million victims were executed and exterminated there by gassing and burning."

Harris and others at the conference suggested that war as a method for settling international disputes should no longer be tolerated and that aggression needed to be defined as one of the crimes against humanity.

On the present scourge of terrorism coming from diffuse corners of the world, Crane said, "The global war on terror confuses people. But we can beat them; we have justice, laws and freedom.

"This is a 20- to 30-year ideological struggle in which we will prevail, if we abide by the law. We hold the ace of spades -- freedom. Everyone wants to be free to worship, free to express themselves and free from want. The end of the Cold War taught us that," he said.

King, by far the most outspoken of the participants, argued that the fears the world faces today are not new and that Nuremberg proved that the rule of law was not "such a fragile thing, and that it strengthens democracies even when applied to those who would deny it to others."

King accused the United States, which pushed the World War II Allies to create the tribunal for Nazi war criminals, of now "fighting a rear-guard action against the advancement of the Nuremberg principles." He referred to a memo by outgoing Attorney General Alberto Gonzales labeling the Geneva Conventions "quaint," and he chastised the Bush administration for withholding support from the ICC.

Walking with difficulty and using a cane, he said he remains an idealist and unabashed about his passion: "I am the real deal," he said.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 August 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

VOA 31 August 2007

Sierra Leone Police Imposed Curfew on Eastern Town Due to New Violence

By James Butty, Washington, D.C.

As Sierra Leone prepares for next Saturday's presidential run-off elections between Vice President Solomon Berewa and opposition candidate Ernest Koroma, Sierra Leone police say they are investigating reports renewed violence among rival political parties. The latest reports which have yet to be confirmed, say rival supporters of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the opposition All People's Party (APC) have been burning down houses in the eastern town of Segbwema. Opposition candidate Ernest Koroma has been campaigning in the eastern province this week.

VOA 30 August 2007

Sierra Leone's Electricity Shortage Charges Up Young Entrepreneurs

By Naomi Schwarz, Freetown

In Sierra Leone's presidential election, electricity has become an important campaign issue. In the crowded capital Freetown residents can go weeks without power, but some of the city's youth, faced also with unemployment that exceeds 70 percent, have turned adversity into opportunity. Four or five boys crowd on wooden benches and plastic chairs in a tiny, ramshackle shop on a busy construction-filled road in downtown Freetown. More push up to the window to watch what is going on inside. The boys are playing video game soccer on a small television. Less than 20 cents gets you four minutes of playtime. Shops like these dot every neighbourhood. They offer a range of services, from haircuts with electric shavers to pay phone calls. And for about 35 cents at almost any of the shops, you can charge your cell phone. Although video games, haircuts, and cell phone charging do not seem related, there is one thing they have in common: they all require electricity. And that is something in short supply in Freetown.

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberia Reaffirms Support for One China Policy

(The Analyst, The Informer and Heritage)

- The Liberian Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the One-China Policy, saying that there are no plans to establish 'bogus' diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

- The statement comes in the wake of a suspected plan by a group of Liberians to attend the pending Africa-Taiwan Forum in Taipei at which time the flag of Liberia is due to be hoisted as a sign of the country's perceived bilateral ties with Taiwan.
- Information Minister Laurence Bropleh told a news conference Thursday that Liberia has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan and warned against flying the country's flag at any international function in that country.
- It can be recalled that Liberia broke diplomatic ties with Taiwan in 2003 following the resignation of former President Charles Taylor who established relations with that country outside of the One-China Policy.

President Sirleaf due to hold Talks with UN Secretary-General Friday

(National Chronicle, The Inquirer and The News)

- Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is due to hold talks with the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon today in Italy where she is currently on an official visit.
- Information Minister Laurence Bropleh said the meeting between President Sirleaf and Mr. Ban would focus on the work of UNMIL and the recent draw-down plan announced by the Mission.
- An Executive Mansion statement issued in Monrovia said while in Italy President Sirleaf would hold bilateral talks with Italian government officials including President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi. The President would also take part in a forum hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to discuss the future of the organization.

UNMIL Restores Key Bridge Linking Monrovia to Western Liberia

(The Inquirer, Heritage and The Informer)

- The Pakistani Engineering Battalion-8 Contingent of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has reconstructed the Kaikpu River Bridge that collapsed early this week in lower Virginia, Montserrado County.
- Speaking during the commissioning of the temporary bridge on Thursday, UNMIL Force Commander Lt/Gen. Isaac Chikadibia Obiakor said the restoration of the bridge was a manifestation of UNMIL's desire to see Liberians move forward with their lives.

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

Ministry Set to Execute Education for Girls Nationwide

- In an interview, the Deputy Minister of Education Hawa Goll-Kotchie said that the Ministry was strategizing to ensure that the girl-child is educated throughout Liberia, adding that the forum is intended to equate the enrolment of girls to boys throughout Country and implemented by District Education Officers. Minister Kotchie emphasized that the girls education forum will also seek to avert the improper dress code of girls in schools to enable them concentrate more on their studies.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

Hospital Head Nurse Asks Colleagues to be Flexible with Patients

- Speaking at a ceremony organized by the Mother Pattern College of Health Sciences yesterday, the Nursing Administrator at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital Jacqueline Greene challenged Liberian nurses to be competent, flexible and reliable in executing their duty by showing the right attitude at all time, stressing that the highest attitude of a good nurse is to have respect for patients and must demonstrate a high-level of self-sufficiency that would enhance professional credibility.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

Lawmakers Summon Police Inspector-General

- Correspondents said that the House of Representatives for the second time summoned Liberia National Police Inspector-General Munnah Sieh for failing to provide the report on the alleged beating of some members of Representative Rufus Neufville's family.
- The House Plenary believe that the Police Boss failed to investigate circumstances leading to the so-called brutality, to its satisfaction but alleged that the Police Chief instead provided explanation on a Court ruling on the matter.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

UNMIL Replaces Collapsed Bridge in Western Liberia

(Also reported on Star and ELBC 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.

Pakistani peacekeepers in Liberia rebuild damaged major bridge leading to Sierra Leone

Virginia, Liberia – Reconstruction of a 90-foot long key bridge linking the capital Monrovia to western Liberia, which leads to Sierra Leone, has been quickly completed by Pakistani peacekeepers in the Engineering contingent of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The Kiakpu River Bridge, in Lower Virginia, about 15 kilometres west of Monrovia, facilitates travel and commuting for Liberians and Sierra Leoneans who constantly use this route for trade and commerce.

Opening the rebuilt bridge, UNMIL Force Commander Lt.-General Chikadibia Isaac Obiakor said it was a clear manifestation of UNMIL’s desire and commitment to help Liberians to move forward in the rehabilitation of the country’s infrastructure. “We are here to deliver; we are here to make sure that Liberians are empowered to go about their normal lives and enjoy peace,” the Force Commander said. “This is part of the dividends of peace. If anything goes wrong, it can always be fixed if there is peace.”

Flanked by his deputy, Maj.-General Muhammad Tahir, who commands UNMIL’s Pakistani contingent, Lt.-Gen. Obiakor, commended the Pakistani contingent for its work, noting that “you have once more than demonstrated that you are good soldiers. You are very professional servants because you are providing a service to humanity. The ordinary people are very happy and hopeful because you have worked very hard,” he said.



Lt.-Gen. Obiakor, and Maj.-Gen. Tahir inspect the finished bridge



UNMIL Pakistani military engineers at work on the bridge

The Pakistani Engineering contingent commander, Major Ahmad Jamal, said the task was quite challenging because of the need to complete it quickly to benefit the public who experienced difficulties in traveling that route after the existing bridge collapsed. As a result, he noted, the bridge was completed in 14 hours. It has the capacity to accommodate at least a 60-ton vehicle, including tanks. He praised the local community for the support given his men to accomplish this task expeditiously.

The previous bridge collapsed a few days ago, after a heavy downpour, and thousands of commuters and vehicles were left stranded on this major highway linking Liberia to its western region and also to neighboring Sierra Leone.