

**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:

Friday, 30 April 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Awoko

Friday, 30 April 2010

US approves \$7m for Special Court

By Betty Milton

The Ambassador At- Large for War Crimes Issues in America Stephen Rapp has disclosed that the United States Government has donated the sum of \$7.5 million to the Special court for Sierra Leone for the continuation of the trial of Charles Taylor.

The Ambassador who was addressing journalist yesterday at SLENA on his visit to the country since he left the office of the prosecution about 8 months ago after being appointed by President Barack Obama said that he came with good news for the people of Sierra Leone.

He revealed that the money is presently in the court account and that this is to support the court, to give the court the resources it needs and resources to complete the trial of Taylor.

Ambassador Rapp further disclosed that the fund will also help in presenting additional witnesses for the defence and also for the closing argument, for the Taylor trial and that there has been substantial contribution from other donor countries like Britain.

“The cost of the court has gone down in a lot of financial areas. So we know that the funding that the court is receiving will go a long way” he said.

The Ambassador At-Large for War Crimes Issues highlighted another purpose of his visit which he said is to facilitate the discussion between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations with regards to the work of the court now that the trials here have finished. Among the issues regarding the court is the residual court regarding any matter that might come up after the court has closed.

He said that they are aware that witnesses will be faced with a lot of intimidation for their testimony and that maybe or maybe not the convicts will have an opinion concerning the trial which they will want to raise.

They will also be looking at the issue of Johnny Paul Koroma if he is alive to stand trial whenever he shows up so as to ensure justice by a judicial court.

The former prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone said that they will work to ensure that the court has a legacy for the people of Sierra Leone “and we will

ensure that the court has a real future for the country.”

He went on to state that the court has a museum where people will go and see the atrocities that took place during the war and that the government will also decide to use the facilities for the justice system for the country or other countries in Africa.

Speaking about the saddest moment while he is prosecutor of the Court, the Ambassador said that his saddest moment was when he reviewed pictures and documentaries about certain victims of the rebel war in Sierra Leone and Congo.

He said when you see those kinds of things, your heart aches but when you can put them together for a process then it helps you that justice has been done.

“It does not matter how big you are when you commit an offence, you face trial for that and when that is done you all feel accomplished”.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Rapp served as prosecutor of the Special Court beginning in January 2007 leading to the prosecutions of Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the convictions of eight members of RUF, CDF and AFRC.

Premier News
Friday, 30 April 2010

Special Court Receives US\$7.5m From US Government

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has received an injection of an additional US\$7.5m from the United States government to complete its work.

By Jeffrey Williams

The court has been trying cases of gross human rights abuses during the Sierra Leone war since its establishment in 2003.

However, financial problems have always dogged its operation as funds required are often derived from donations from the international community including especially the European Union and the United States.

In additional injection of money to fund the courts activities in the next couple of months was announced yesterday by the United States Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes, Stephen Rapp at a press briefing in Freetown.

The US envoy is a former Registrar of the Special Court and served diligently during his term, which saw the successful prosecution of all accused and apprehended combatants in the war except Charles Taylor.

Taylor's arrest and incarceration in Freetown was viewed as not in the best interests of the country as some of his supporters were threatening to attack the detention facility to free him.

The matter was therefore transferred to The Hague for adjudication.

It is the only remaining trial scheduled by the court but the expenses involved have been a

constant headache to the government and its international partners.

“Judgment on the trail is expected by December this year but funds are needed to pay Defence Lawyers and take care of witnesses,” said the envoy. He said adequate funds are required to conclude the case so that victims of the crimes committed by the accused do not loose, with perpetrators going free.

“The Special Court for Sierra Leone will rap up its operations by the end of the year, but a small unit of people will be left behind to manage its affairs until all other issues relating to it are addressed,” he stated.

He said if any situation arises resulting in the harassment of witnesses “then the group of people left behind will work with the Sierra Leone judiciary to prosecute the offender.”

The Torchlight
Friday, 30 April 2010

SPECIAL COURT BAGS 7.5 MILLION DOLLARS

Abdul Rahman

As a show of his commitment in ensuring peace and stability, the former prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen J. Rapp, who is the Ambassador at large for war crimes, yesterday held a press conference at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) where he informed journalists that he had very good news to tell – and that is, the American Government has deposited in the coffers of the Special Court for Sierra Leone a whopping sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars (7.5 US\$) as a way of augmenting the activities of the Court.

During his presentation he highlighted issues relating to the down-sizing of



court staff and the protection of witnesses. He however maintained that the Special Court will maintain residual judges who will try culprits like Johnny Paul Koroma in case he resurfaces anywhere.

Concord Times
Friday, 30 April 2010

US Embassy doles \$35,000 for Tailor trial

By Alusine Sesay

United States Embassy in Sierra Leone has donated the sum of \$35,000 to complete the ongoing trials of former Liberian president, Charles Tailor.

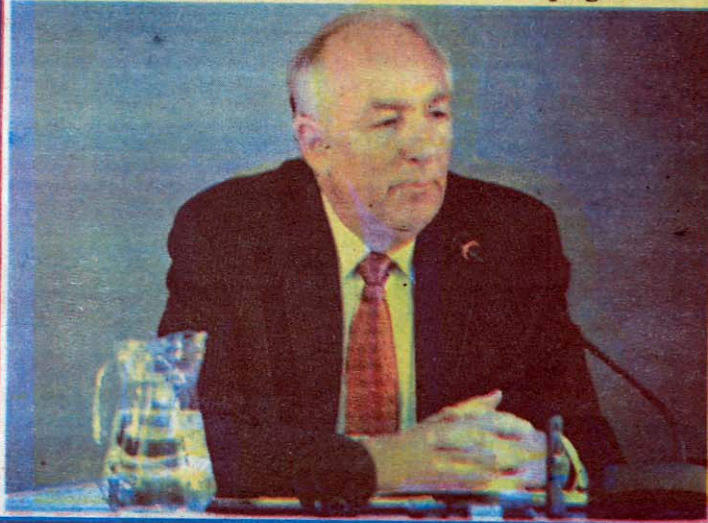
US ambassador at large for war crime issues, Stephen Rapp who made the disclosure said America as a major donor of the UN was working in partnership with the government of Sierra Leone to promote the justice system in the country.

"We fast-track our

contribution to show our firm commitment for the proper application of the rule of law and the conclusion of the trial in the Hague," he said.

He said money was needed to complete the Tailor trial adding that, it would have been damning to the court if Tailor is released from prison without the right judgment. "If the court run out of money and the trial comes to a halt, all that

Contd page 4



US Embassy doles \$35,000 for Tailor trial

From page 1

have been said by the prosecution witnesses would have gone in vain. The war affected people like the amputees would not have appreciated the

court's judgment," he noted.

Rapp maintained that the court would look into the issue of Johnny Paul and see if it would be necessary to search for him

so that he can be tried in the Hague.

"We will work with the Sierra Leone government to pursue the Tailor trial," he said.

New Vision
Friday, 30 April 2010

Stephen J. Rapp: Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues

Stephen J. Rapp of Iowa is Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues. Appointed by President Obama, he was confirmed by the Senate, and assumed his duties on September 8, 2009. Prior to his appointment, he served as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone beginning in January 2007, leading the prosecutions of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed during the civil war in Sierra Leone. During his tenure, his office achieved the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity, and for attacks on peacekeepers and for recruitment and use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law.

From 2001 to 2007, Mr. Rapp served as Senior Trial Attorney and Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda, personally heading the trial team that achieved convictions of the principals of RTLM radio and Kangura newspaper—the first in history for leaders of the mass media for the crime of direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

Mr. Rapp was United States Attorney in the Northern District of Iowa from 1993 to 2001, where his office won historic convictions under the firearms provision of the Violence Against Women Act and the serious violent offender provision of the 1994 Crime Act. Prior to his tenure as U.S. Attorney, he worked as an attorney in private practice and served as Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency and as an elected member of the Iowa Legislature.

He received his BA degree from Harvard College in 1971. He attended Columbia and Drake Law Schools and received his JD degree from Drake in 1974.

The Exclusive
Friday, 30 April 2010

Special Court Bags US\$7M

By Sahr Dixon

The Ambassador at large for War Crimes Issues, Mr. Stephen J. Rapp has in press conference held at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA), yesterday, April 29, 2010 informed journalists about a whopping seven million

Dollars (\$7 million) allocated to the Special Court for Sierra Leone by the US Government in order to speed up the ongoing Charles Taylor trial at The Hague. The fund provided for the Special Court, according to the Ambassador, has already be remitted in the Bank, adding that his office would en-

sure that the money is judiciously used for its intended purpose.

Mr. Rapp was appointed by the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate. He assumed duties on September, 8, 2009. Prior to

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Special Court Bags US\$7M

From page 2

his appointment, he served as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and prosecuted the former Liberian President and other perpetrators.

During his tenure as Special Court Prosecutor, his office achieved the first con-

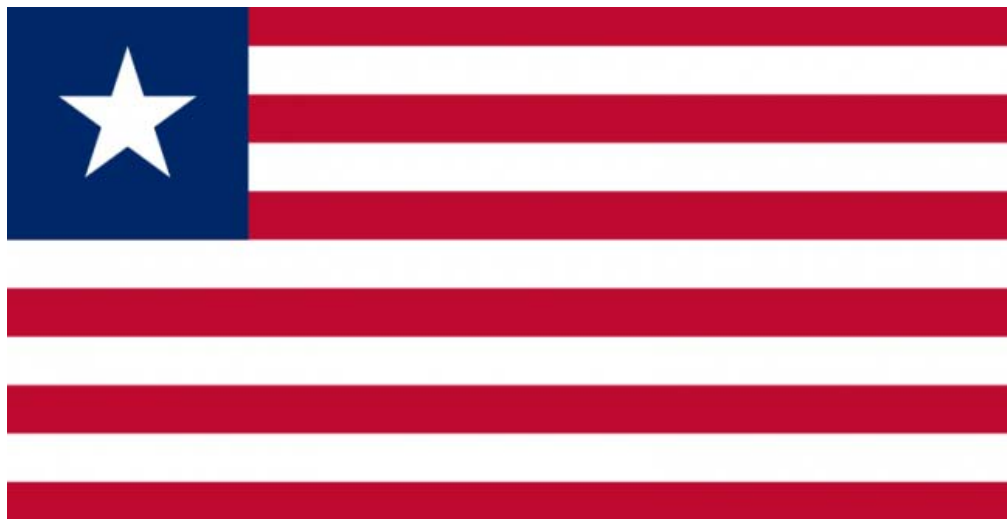
victions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity and for attacks on peacekeeper and for recruitment and use of child soldier as violations of international humanitarian law.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 29 April 2010

Liberia investigates possibility of war crimes tribunal

By Robin van Wechem



Liberia is considering trying perpetrators of the worst crimes committed during its 1989-2003 civil war, Justice Minister Christiana Tah said Sunday. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has set up a committee to advise on whether prosecutions should go ahead.

“[The committee] includes myself and the head of law reform,” Tah said, “because we want accountability. This is not over. We’ll review the report and advise the government on the way forward.”

Liberian football legend and presidential candidate George Weah supports the initiative. “There’s no peace without justice,” he told Radio Netherlands Worldwide correspondent Sophie van Leeuwen during a recent visit to The Hague. “A criminal court is good for the people, it might create safety and encourage respect for human rights. When people don’t respect human rights, they’ll be taken to court. That’s an important message.”

Liberia suffered two decades of civil war after Sergeant Samuel Doe took power in 1980. Charles Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) staged a counter coup in 1989 and plunged the country into a five year civil war. In 1999, a second civil war started which lasted until 2003, when a peace agreement was signed and Taylor resigned as president.

Taylor is currently on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in The Hague, charged with eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The SCSL could serve as an example for Liberia. The court was set up by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in 2002 to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during the country’s bloody civil war. Taylor’s trial, which started in 2007, is the last case pending before the court. Since the court opened in 2003, eight people have been convicted and two died while awaiting trial. No one has been acquitted.

After its own civil war, Liberia chose to forego prosecution and opted instead for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Since all parties were guilty of employing child soldiers, rape and extreme violence, the country chose to prioritise internal relations and stability over prosecution and conviction.

The TRC opened in 2005 and last year delivered a bulky report containing testimonies from victims and perpetrators alike, aimed at forgiveness and reconciliation. However, it also recommended the prosecution

of those suspected of the worst crimes, including gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) only has jurisdiction over crimes committed after 2002, and therefore can't take on cases relating to the Liberian civil war. Liberia could, however, ask the UN General Assembly to support a special court of its own, modeled after the one in Sierra Leone.

Bram Posthumus, host of Radio Netherlands' Bridges with Africa programme, says a Liberia tribunal would "definitely be desirable, as Liberians haven't had the chance to have their say about what kind of justice should be done."

However, even if the Liberian government were to install a special court, "it would take the next ten years to put all the resources in place to do prosecutions," says TRC president Jerome Verdier. Still, he adds, prosecution is vital: "We cannot claim to have ended the conflict in the absence of justice."


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
29 April 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL News

UNMIL Workshop Ends Today ... as Wolo Stresses Media's Importance for Election

[New Vision, The New Republic]

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) organized three-day political reporting workshop for local journalists got underway for the second day in Monrovia.
- The workshop is intended to sharpen the skills of reporters in political reporting and understanding issues arising from political activities ahead of the 2011 elections.
- Addressing the topic: "Election Reporting Technique", Mr. James Wolo said there is no way that people can separate the media from politics.
- Mr. Wolo noted that media institution plays a pivotal role in relating information directly to the electorates during electioneering.
- The workshop coordinator told participants that the media is very powerful in everyway, including the building of fences, promoting human dignity, promoting political agendas and winning the minds of people.
- He used his lecture to implore the media to play its watchdog role while at the same time educating the people on political decisions and policies from which the people should benefit.

Local News on Liberian issues

Hanging Not Unlawful, President Sirleaf

[New Democrat]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says government has not legislated any law forbidding the hanging of murder convicts.
- The President was responding to inquiries on a local radio show relative to a lower court's verdict, which sentenced a couple – Hans Williams and Mardea Paykue to death by hanging for murdering 13-year old Angel Togba.
- President Sirleaf said government via the National Legislature has not enacted any law or convention prohibiting death sentence.
- "We have not gone through any paper work yet with our lawmakers in order to put our law aside", the Liberian leader said, noting that "the law says if you are guilty you will be hanged and we have not reached any law to the contrary."
- The President was however ambivalent relative to signing the death sentence as legally required.
- "It is left with us to implement the law or relax it," she declared urging the convicted folks to seek God's intervention in the matter.

Liberia Gets First Mining Cadastre Office, President Sirleaf Says It's Key To Transparency

[The News, National Chronicle, In Profile Daily]

- The Liberian government in collaboration with the US government Wednesday dedicated Liberia's first Mining Cadastre Office.

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf through Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Eugene Shannon said the mining cadastre facility would ensure transparency and accountability in the management of the country's mineral sector.
- President Sirleaf said the opening of the Mining Cadastre Office would no longer be done as the computerized mining cadastre provides an answer to this challenge.
- She said the cadastre facility would eliminate the incidence of overlapping grants of license.
- In remarks, US Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas Greenfield said the mining cadastre information system would enhance transparency, boost investors' confidence and increase revenues.

President Sirleaf Believes In Gwenigale, Ngafuan, Sayeh, and Woods

[The News, The Inquirer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has expressed explicit confidence in four individuals - three Ministers in the current Government and a former Minister.
- The President said she could put her life on the line for the four individuals because of their demonstrated integrity.
- They include, Health Minister Dr. Walter Gwenigale, Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan, former Finance Minister now IMF official Dr. Antoinette Sayeh and Public Works Minister Kofi Woods.
- President Sirleaf believes in no way can these individuals steal money from government's coffers.
- The President made the pronouncement Wednesday when she addressed a gathering at a local Hatai Centre in Monrovia.

Former Lawmaker Advances Formula for Threshold Bill

[The Inquirer]

- Former Bong County Representative Joseph Cornomia has recommended what he considers the most workable solution to the stalemate over the threshold bill.
- Mr. Cornomia said since the Executive proposed 48,000, the Senate 54,500 and the House of Representatives 46,000; a mathematical formula could be derived.
- The Former Bong County lawmaker suggested that the three figures be added and the sum divided by three to derive a threshold.
- Mr. Cornomia said he has done the mathematics and feels that a threshold of 49,500 would be appropriate to reflect the three proposals.
- He said the threshold issue needs to be addressed speedily to give way for elections in 2011.

Presidential Envoy Breaks Silence, Says He Spent 14 Days in Detention

[Heritage]

- Liberia's Ambassador-at-Large Dan Morias has broken silence since his arrest and subsequent detention for alleged ritualistic killings in Maryland County.
- Ambassador Morias said he spent fourteen days in detention where he slept on the bare floor and ate meals irregularly describing his arrest and detention as politically motivated.
- According to him, certain elements in the National Legislature were behind the plot to make him unpopular among his kinsmen back home.
- Ambassador Morias said the plotters could find no other way of defaming his character but to link him to ritualistic killings in the County.
- The Ambassador-at-Large denied ever being a part of any ritualistic killing and will never be a part to such an uncivilized activity.
- He however admitted that ritualistic killing was a problem in Maryland County which needed to be tackled by everyone and not just a select group of people.
- Meanwhile, Ambassador Morias has dispelled rumors that he was on the run based on fear of being prosecuted.

CEMESP Disappointed Over State Of Media

[The Monitor, The Inquirer, Heritage]

- On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day May 3rd, 2010, the Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP) says it is disappointed that the state of media freedom in Liberia remains unchanged, more than four years in a new democracy.
- In a press release issued Wednesday, CEMESP says it is particularly concerned because press freedom is the cornerstone to good governance and a functional democracy.

- The media group observed in the release that the range of information available to ordinary citizens enables them to participate fully in public life, help determine priorities for public spending, receive equal access to justice and hold their public officials accountable.
- This, CEMESP notes, cannot obtain when the media, the source of information, is cramped.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

President Sirleaf Believes In Gwenigale, Ngafuan, Sayeh, and Woods

“US Remains Restless Until Threshold Bill Is Passed” Says US Diplomat

- US Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield says her government remains restless until the controversial population threshold bill is passed into law by the National Legislature.
- Ambassador Greenfield said she will continue to visit the Legislature as long as the threshold bill remains unsettled.
- The US diplomat made the statement Wednesday following discussions with Senate Presiding Officer Daniel Naatehn.
- Ambassador Greenfield said the meeting with Senator Naatehn was to get a briefing on how the threshold issue is proceeding.
- She repeated that the US government like the people of Liberia remains concerned about the passage of the bill, which she stressed, is important to the timely conduct of the 2011 elections.
- Meanwhile, Senator Naatehn says all is being done to finally pass a unified version of the bill.

Former Lawmaker Advances Formula for Threshold Bill

Lofa Citizens Present Statement to Government

- A group of citizens from Voinjama District in Lofa County has presented a two-page position statement to authorities at the Justice Ministry.
- The statement centred on the release of the eight suspected perpetrators of the February 26 Voinjama violence which left at least four persons dead and properties destroyed.
- In the statement, the Voinjama citizens strongly condemned the transfer of the suspects from Lofa to Bomi and their subsequent release on bail by government.
- The citizens observed the acts allegedly committed by the alleged perpetrators are heinous and deliberate.
- They argued the release of the suspects has the tendency to undermine the justice system and called for due process.
- The Voinjama citizens believe the prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of the Voinjama violence will serve as a deterrent.

Justice Ministry Clarifies the Release of Voinjama Violence Suspects

- The Justice Ministry has clarified that the release of the eight suspects of the Voinjama violence was not in contravention of the law.
- Solicitor General Wilkins Wright said the release of the suspects was done in keeping with law.
- According to Cllr. Wright, the suspects were released based on a bail filed by the defendants because the crimes committed were bailable.
- The Solicitor General spoke Wednesday when a group of Voinjama District citizens presented a position statement to the ministry.
- Cllr. Wright however told the citizens the release of the suspects does not mean due process will not take its course.
- He assured the case would be tried during the next term of court, but urged the citizens to provide more evidence to the Court.

Presidential Envoy Breaks Silence, Says He Spent 14 Days in Detention

Baptist Seminary Crisis Deepens, As Former President Launches Attack

- The first Liberian President of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary Rev. Dr. Lincoln Brownell has launched a damaging attack on the seminary.
- Dr. Brownell alleged greed for money, sex and power have desecrated the secrecy of the Baptist Seminary.
- According to him the seminary is currently made up of an unconstitutional board headed Dr. Walter Richards.
- He accused the Seminary's current President Rev. Arnold Hill and Madam Olivia Williams of conniving with Dr. Richards to illegally unseat him.
- He maintained that his removal from office was illegal and demands a fair hearing before the law.

- The Baptist prelate equates his removal from office to jungle justice despite a restraining order from the Court.
- Responding, Baptist Seminary President Rev. Arnold Hill said Dr. Brownell was free to say whatever he wishes but would be held accountable; while the head of the Seminary Board Dr. Walter Richard justified the removal of Dr. Brownell from the Baptist compound.

International Clip on Liberia

Liberian journalist appointed to Philadelphia city

<http://runningafrica.com/news-04292010TogbaSlewion-PhillyCommission.html>

A prominent Liberian journalist and community activist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA Mr. Samuel Togba Slewion has been appointed as Secretary to the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs. The appointment was contained in a letter to Mr. Slewion, dated April 14, 2010 under the signature of Mr. Stanley Straughter, Chairman of the Commission. In his capacity, Mr. Slewion will function in the recording of the official activities of the Commission as well as the recording of the minutes of the official meetings and all sub-committee meetings. In the letter of appointment, Chairman Straughter expressed the hope that Mr. Slewion would work towards "exploring the development of programs and initiatives to enhance the quality of life for African and Caribbean immigrants in the City of Philadelphia." In June, 2005, former Philadelphia Mayor John Street formally announced the formation of the African and Immigrant Affairs. The Commission is composed of nine members, Chaired by the Honorable Stanley Straughter (the Honorary Consulate of Guinea). The Commission's main functions include the encouragement of the development and implementation of policies and practices intended to improve conditions affecting the cultural, social, economic, political, educational, health and general well-being of the African and Caribbean immigrants, refugees, and asylees residing in Philadelphia. The new Secretary to the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs is the Coordinator of the Liberia Media Support Initiative, former Secretary General of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) and former Secretary General of the Association of Liberian Journalists in the United States (ALJA).

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea PM warns of pro-Camara plot, threat to vote

CONAKRY (Reuters) - Supporters of Guinea's sidelined military ruler are secretly plotting his return to the country, but any actions to disrupt a planned election will be quashed, Guinea's interim prime minister said Wednesday. Jean Marie Dore also said that the government was ready for voting on June 27, as planned, but it was up to the election commission to "maintain or change the date," which analysts say could be threatened by logistical and technical delays. Supporters of Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, who ran the world's top bauxite exporter until he went abroad for medical treatment after he was shot in December, have threatened to disrupt the election in parts of the country unless Camara returns from convalescence in nearby Burkina Faso. "There are supporters of the former head of the (junta) who are holding secret meetings planning his return. I warn them -- any actions that target the elections will be dealt with very strongly," Prime Minister Jean Marie Dore told reporters. Many fear a return by Camara risks disrupting efforts to stabilize the country. Guinea is now run by Camara's deputy, General Sekouba Konate, who has appointed an interim prime minister and promised a return to civilian rule. As well as facing protests by pro-Camara youth in his native Forestiere region earlier this month, Konate arrested about a dozen pro-Camara officers suspected of fomenting instability.

Ivory Coast

UNOCI transports 200 students for the festival of school theatre in Yamoussoukro

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, /African Press Organization (APO)/ — The Senegalese contingent of the United Nation Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), on 27 April 2010, provided logistical support to the Ivorian Ministry of Education by transporting 200 students, 600 chairs and tents during the final phase of the national Festival of School Theatre in Yamoussoukro. Maarit Hirvonen, UNICEF representative in Côte d'Ivoire, who was sponsoring the festival, said that her organization was supporting the event because it wanted to encourage children's right to express their

opinion and to be heard. "One of the priorities of UNICEF's programme in Côte d'Ivoire is to give all children who are living in Côte d'Ivoire the opportunity to go to school and to make sure that they continue to study until they complete their primary schooling," she added. For his part, the Minister of Education, Gilbert Bleu Lainé, after thanking the Senegalese battalion for its support, said he was grateful to United Nations agencies for their commitment to Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to the logistical support, the Senegalese battalion on 18 March, rehabilitated six classrooms and provided the Regional Direction of National Education (DREN) of Yamoussoukro with desk-benches.

Sierra Leone

US gives \$2.5M to pay for Taylor war crimes trial

Freetown, Sierra Leone (AP) – The United States is giving an additional \$7.5 million to help pay for Charles Taylor's war crimes trial. The U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp made the announcement Thursday in Sierra Leone's capital. Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia, is accused of funding Sierra Leonean rebels infamous for hacking off the lips, ears and limbs of their victims. Taylor has denied the allegations. Rapp, who previously served as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, said that significant contributions also have come from the UK, Canada, the Netherlands and Norway. The court relies on voluntary contributions from governments, and Rapp has said the process has been complicated by the global economic crisis.
