

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216

The Trumpet. Tuesday August 30th, 2005.

Special Court Honours Prison Staff

By Richard Bockarie (Jm)

Six officers of the Sierra Leone Prisons who were seconded to the Special Court in 2003, have been issued certificates of merit at a ceremony conducted within the precincts of the Special Court.

The six include Veronica Bameh, Ahmed Bangura, Osman Kamara, Quentin Dunn, Bangor Dixon and Emmanuel King, although the latter was honoured in absentia as he was unavoidably absent for the ceremony.

The Director of the Sierra Leone Prisons Foday S Kamara and Barry Wallace, Chief of Detention at the Special Court, issued the certificates.

The seconded Prisons Officers received training on interpersonal skills such as the treatment of detained persons and their families with dignity, cell extraction of a violent detainee, handcuffing, the general principles of security, the secured handling, movement and control of detain-



ees. Congratulating those honoured, Mr Conteh expressed pleasure on behalf of the Sierra Leone Prisons. He said the Sierra Leone Prisons was pleased they were able to make such a valuable contribution to the

Special Court and expressed the hope that the skills the honourees have acquired would be of immense benefit in the discharge of their official duties at the Sierra Leone Prisons. He reiterated the significance of the certificates awarded to

the officers. Mr. Conteh said the certificates were given to the officer in recognition of their individual contributions to the court but would be valuable in respect of their future careers in the Sierra Leone prison service.

Christian Monitor. Tuesday August 30, 2005.

Norman Vs SLPP: Ruling Tomorrow

The long-awaited ruling ruling SLPP as defendant as Plaintiff is expected to according to a notice
in the case between the and Chief Hinga Norman be delivered on Wednes- from the Supreme
day 31st August, 2005 Court.

Independent Voice · Tuesday August 30, 2005.

2007 Electic

As the proverb goes, when two elephants fight in the bush, it is the grass that always suffers the defeat. The relationship between those factions vying for leadership of the state in 2007 is unpredictable. The current vice President Solomon E Berewa was accused of taken decisions on behalf of the Kabbah government- because he was answerable to President Kabbah on matters dealings with the juntas, Kamajors and RUF. Now president Kabbah is in the transit to leave power, come 2007 elections. But many people are jittery of Solomon Berewa's relationship with the disgruntled junta boys, particularly the families of those that were killed by executions. Other related dis-

ons...

gruntled matters such as bad governance, mass unemployment among the youths and rampant dismissal of workers are among other burning issues of national concern. It is important for the UNAMSIL to advise the government to address some of those burning concerns before leaving in December in the interest of peace.

LIBERIA: Presidential candidates divided over what to do about Charles Taylor

29 Aug 2005 19:16:12 GMT

Source: IRIN

Background

- ▶ FACTBOX: Guinea
- ▶ FACTBOX: Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ FACTBOX: Liberia
- ▶ CRISIS PROFILE: W. Africa teeters between war and peace
- ▶ CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?

MORE →

MONROVIA, 29 August (IRIN) - Candidates vying to be Liberia's next head of state are divided about whether to ask for former president Charles Taylor to be transferred from exile in Nigeria to stand trial for war crimes committed in Sierra Leone.

Taylor has been served 17 indictments for crimes against humanity for his involvement and support to the Revolutionary United Front rebel faction in Sierra Leone, known for hacking off hands, feet, lips and ears of civilians during the 1991-2002 civil war.

The UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone has repeatedly called on Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to hand Taylor over for trial. However, Obasanjo has said that he will not turn the former warlord in, unless an elected Liberian president asks him to do so or Taylor breaks the terms of his asylum deal.

As Liberians prepare to go to the polls on 11 October, candidates outlined their stances on the issue at a recent presidential debate.

George Weah, onetime football wizard and now a favourite contender for the presidency, would only confirm that he wanted Taylor to have the opportunity to clear his name.

"What I will say is that ex-president Taylor has the right to exonerate himself. For Taylor, his family, and people that believe in Taylor, it is time for Taylor to exonerate himself and we should be able to give him the opportunity to do that," said the ace-shooter.

Wildly popular with Liberia's youthful and mostly illiterate electorate, Weah has a strong following among former combatants, including those loyal to Taylor.

The former international soccer star did not specify whether he was in favour of sending Taylor to the Special Court to exonerate himself.

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, veteran opposition leader and senior UN official, called for a review of Taylor's asylum in Nigeria, where

authorities have investigated allegations that he has been meddling in Liberian affairs by telephone.

"Mr. Taylor was not indicted by a Liberian court. He was indicted by an international court. Mr. Taylor reportedly had a deal with the West African leaders that led to his exit from Liberia. If it is true that deal has been broken, he should bear the consequences," she said.

Roland Massaquoi, a stalwart of the former president's cabinet who has now become the new torchbearer for Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP), said he would accept an option for Taylor to stand trial if his asylum deal was broken, or if the Liberian people demanded it.

Only Charles Brumskine, a one-time confidant and deputy senate leader under Taylor, vowed to send his former boss to Sierra Leone to stand trial.

"I would have no reservation to transmit Mr Taylor to the Court for prosecution. The rule of law must be upheld and Mr Taylor has an international indictment hanging over him," he said.

But two of the lawyers in the presidential race raised legal questions.

Winston Tubman, a former UN diplomat and recently a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Somalia, questioned the jurisdiction of the Special Court.

"I would not just send Mr. Taylor to court because the [Special] Court ask me to do so. The question of the jurisdiction of the Court is a legal issue. The Court does not have a compulsory jurisdiction to make Mr. Taylor appear there," he said.

However, the nephew of Liberia's longest-serving president William Tubman did say that if he won a substantial majority in the upcoming polls, he would hand the decision over to the UN Security Council.

"If I have a ninety percent margin in the elections, I would then ask the Security Council to make a decision on whether it is compulsory for us to send him there," he said.

Corporate lawyer, Varney Sherman, said there was a need to clarify whether an extradition treaty existed between Nigeria and Liberia. He also noted that the Special Court would try Taylor for crimes against Sierra Leoneans, not Liberians.

"As a lawyer turned politician, there are complications with the Taylor issue - he has not been indicted by a court in Liberia. He has not been indicted for any offence committed against the Liberian people. He has been indicted for an offence committed against Sierra Leoneans," he said.

Taylor led a brutal bush war against the government of Samuel Doe from 1989 until he was elected president during a break in the fighting in 1997.

Liberians voted for Taylor in the belief that the war would only end once the rebel leader had taken control of the presidency.

But the lull in the fighting didn't last long, and within months, more and new rebels movements were beating a path to the capital Monrovia, wanting to see Taylor toppled.

Under international pressure, Taylor stepped down from office in August 2003 and took exile in Nigeria as part of a peace deal. He now lives in a luxury mansion in the coastal town of Calabar.

IRIN news

Newsdesk **NGO Latest** **Reuters Pictures**

▸ Stars, clerics help Indonesia start polio plan (2 hours ago)

Source: Reuters

▸ US abstinence drive hurts AIDS fight - UN official (11 hours ago)

Source: Reuters

▸ LIBERIA: Presidential candidates divided over what to do about Charles Taylor (12 hours ago)

Source: IRIN

▸ Ivorian rebels to complain to U.N. over deadlock (13 hours ago)

Source: Reuters

▸ ZIMBABWE: Govt refuses to endorse emergency appeal (13 hours ago)

Source: IRIN

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Security Council Press Release

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

SC/8483
26 August 2005

**SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE DETERMINED TO SUPPORT MEASURES
TO FACILITATE PEACE PROCESS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

At its seventh meeting, held on 26 August 2005, members of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) expressed their serious concern regarding recent reports of incitation of hatred, intolerance and violence in the media of Côte d'Ivoire and reaffirmed their full support for the work of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and for the efforts of the South African mediation team.

In this regard, they looked forward to the 31 August briefing of the Security Council by South African Defence Minister, Mosiuoa Lekota, after which the Committee will meet promptly to consider any further action, in accordance with the Committee's mandate in paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004), to ensure full implementation of resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1584 (2005).

The members of the Committee reiterated their determination to support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and their call to all Ivorian parties to fully respect the commitments undertaken in the Linas-Marcoussis and Pretoria Agreements, and to fully abide by their obligations under resolutions of the Security Council.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 Aug 2005**

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

International Clips on West Africa**Ivory Coast army chief meets French, UN peacekeepers**

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, 29 Aug (AFP) - The military leaders of UN and French peacekeeping forces in Ivory Coast on Monday had confidence-building talks with the armed forces chief, General Philippe Mangou, in the war-divided West African country.

Senegalese General Abdoulaye Fall and French General Elrick Irastorza began talks with Mangou in Yamoussoukro, the political capital, at around 10:30 am (1030 GMT), an AFP correspondent said.

Ivorian rebels to complain to U.N. over deadlock

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, 29 Aug (Reuters) - Rebels in Ivory Coast, anxious to avoid possible U.N. sanctions for blocking a peace process, said on Monday they would write to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan blaming the deadlock on President Laurent Gbagbo.

The rebels said on Thursday they would not allow planned Oct. 30 elections to be held in the northern half of the country they control, torpedoing polls that form the centerpiece of a peace deal to end three years of civil war.

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 and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 Aug 2005**

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

International Clips on West Africa

08/26/2005 17:33:12

International community must decide on vote date: Ivory Coast chief

ABIDJAN, Aug 26 (AFP) - The president of Ivory Coast, where tensions are running high after a call to depose the government, said Friday international mediators must decide if presidential elections can go ahead as planned in October.

Laurent Gbagbo's comments, reported on national television, were his first public statement since former army leader General Mathias Doue -- who was sacked in November 2004 -- vowed on August 19 to remove the president.

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 26 Aug 2005

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International Clips on West Africa**COTE D IVOIRE: All eyes on mediators after rebels withdraw backing for October polls**

ABIDJAN, 26 Aug 2005 (IRIN) - Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo on Friday declined to react to the rebels' effective withdrawal from the peace process, saying it was up to the South African mediators to decide what happened next.

Rebels holding the northern half of the divided West African country said on Thursday that elections could not be held in their territory as planned on 30 October because the conditions were still not in place just nine weeks before polling day.

COTE D IVOIRE: "Elections won't take place" says rebel leader *

BOUAKE, 25 Aug 2005 (IRIN) - The leader of the New Forces rebels, Guillaume Soro, on Thursday voiced what many Ivorians have been saying for months now - that peace-sealing presidential elections scheduled for 30 October will not take place.

"The New Forces are convinced that the presidential elections of 30 October, will not take place on that date," said Soro as he summed up the results of a week-long seminar in the rebel-stronghold of Bouake.

*Also reported on BBC World News

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