

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:

Wednesday, July 30, 2003

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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The New York Times

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Foday Sankoh, Sierra Leone Rebel Leader, Dies at 70

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 6:23 a.m. ET

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) -- Foday Sankoh, the indicted leader of a bloody 10-year rebel terror campaign in Sierra Leone, died in U.N. custody at a hospital in the capital, the spokesman for the war-crimes court said Wednesday.

Sankoh, aged about 70, died late Tuesday night in a U.N.-controlled section of Freetown hospital, said David Hecht of the U.N.-Sierra Leone war crimes court.

Sankoh had been ill almost since his capture in early 2000. There was no immediate information on the cause of death.

Sankoh, like Charles Taylor of neighboring Liberia, trained in the Cold War guerrilla camps of Moammar Gadhafi.

Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front launched an insurgency to control Sierra Leone's government and diamond fields in 1991.

His drugged, drunk rebels became notorious for their viciousness, killing, raping, maiming and kidnapping tens of thousands of civilians.


Under Sankoh, rebels made a trademark of hacking off the hands, feet, lips and ears of victims with machetes.

Sankoh was captured after his fighters gunned down more than a dozen protesters outside his Freetown home, and had been in U.N. custody in prisons and hospitals since. He was indicted by the Sierra Leone war crimes court.

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Forceful military intervention by Britain, Guinea and the United Nations crushed the rebels, and Sierra Leone formally declared the war over in early 2002.



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British mercenaries volunteer to capture Taylor



"We'll be happy to receive him at the border...Special Court

According to the Financial Times in London, an Anglo-American company has offered to deploy a battalion of peacekeepers and arrest President Charles Taylor who is now holed up in the Executive Mansion.

Northbridge Services, a private military company was founded by retired UK and US soldiers. They have volunteered to deploy 500 to 2,000 armed men in Liberia in three weeks, and have vowed to halt the fighting. However, they have promised to work in

accordance with the international community and prevent the [need] for US troops to be harmed. The proposal has not yet received US support. The US is expected to finance the mercenaries to carry out the operation.

In Sierra Leone, the Special Court is reported to have responded favourably to Northbridge's proposal. The court said it would be happy to take delivery of the Liberian warlord at the border.

However, court officials have told the company that it has run

out of funds and urged it to seek financing from the US, its largest donor.

The State Department has not responded favourably to the proposal, despite behind-the-scenes support from US congressmen.

Earlier in June the company offered to provide Special Court with a "special

constabulary force" of some 60 armed men that would arrest Mr. Taylor and bring him to trial at a cost of around \$4m, but did not get a positive reply.

Concord Times

Wednesday July 30, 2003

SPECIAL COURT REFUSES TO TALK ON MASKITA'S BODY

By Mohamed Mansaray

The Special Court has refused to comment on the result of the forensic examination on the presumed body of Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie. Sam Bockarie was reportedly killed in a gun battle in Liberia a couple of months ago.

His family members were also reportedly killed by President Charles Taylor's forces, days after he was murdered. Mosquito's body was

later handed over to officials of the Special Court in Freetown after much delay. Court officials have been conducting examination on the

body to determine its true identity. However, officials in the Public Affairs Unit of the Special Court do not know whether the body has

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been flown out of Sierra Leone for special tests. They also would not say whether 'Maskita's' family members have been traced; nor would they say when the post-mortem result would be made known to the public.

'Maskita' has been indicted by the Special Court for bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes committed against civilians during the war years in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone Times

Wednesday July 30, 2003

Independent Observer

Wednesday July 30, 2003

Kamajors Request Police Permission To Meet In Bo

Former members of the Kamajor militia in the South and Eastern provinces are requesting police permission for them to organise a meeting in Bo to discuss issues affecting them and government directly.

According to reports, members of the Civil Defence Force, claimed that mountain of promises were made to them after the war by government but to date none has been met.

Most of those who did not go through the DDR programme were promised a certain amount by government. The delaying in releasing this cash at the time almost led to chaos and it was President Kabbah, during his re-election campaign last year in Bo who calmed down tension with a public pronouncement at the Bo Coronation Grounds that government was going to pay them.

Afterwards, a huge cash running into millions of Leones was dished out to effect payment. But perhaps the money went into the wrong hands and those who were not beneficiaries are now making loud noise.

Cash aside, some of the Kamajors are disgruntled over the arrest of their leader, Sam Hinga Norman and two others who

are in Special Court custody for the role they played in restoring legitimacy after the AFRC coup of 1997.

On the other hand the police will have to think twice before granting such permission. And considering it sensitivity, they will need to consult with government.

LEAD-IN: ...in the capital Monrovia continued yesterday, rebels went on the attack in two other towns. The main LURD rebel movement seized control of Gbarnga in the northeast while the smaller MODEL rebel group captured the major port town of Buchanan. MODEL spokesman Boi Bleaju Boi is currently in Accra for peace talks, and from there gave his reasons why the group had taken Buchanan while participating in the talks.

BOI: We are trying to defence (sic.) our positions because in time past we have been complaining to the international community that Taylor has continued to attack our positions since the signing of the ceasefire. We are in Ghana and we are going through the discussions. We are abiding with the ceasefire agreement, but we continue to receive attacks and we cannot sit, you know, [indistinct] to see our soldiers dying all of the time.

So how significant are the rebels' gains this time? That's the question [indistinct] put to our correspondent in Monrovia, Jonathan Paye-Layleh, earlier this morning.

PAYE-LAYLEH: The two towns in question are very strategically located. Buchanan is the second largest and this is also where you see the second largest port. And Gbarnga is centrally located. You have to go through Gbarnga before you get into northern and southeastern Liberia from the Monrovia end. So the fall of Gbarnga and Buchanan to the two rebel movements is indeed a serious blow to not only the government but to people who have thought that because Monrovia is on fire they at least want to make their way out of the capital to live in other places like the two towns to reside elsewhere.

So what does the government say? How did it lose control of both towns?

PAYE-LAYLEH: The government has been concentrating heavily on the war in Monrovia, fighting hard to make sure that the rebellion should not cross the two bridges to come to the city center. So not surprisingly the fight for the two places which is almost an all-rebel affair with [indistinct] overrunning those towns before attempts were made to even fight back.

But is the government now planning a counter-offensive?

PAYE-LAYLEH: The information I got last night was something like counter-attacks was going on in the suburbs of those towns' outskirts. Government forces have not been [indistinct] making some effort. The defence minister was up to last evening seeing the Buchanan area, trying to mobilize people to see what they can do to launch a counter-attack.

Well the arrival of peacekeeping troops is eagerly awaited in Liberia after the regional grouping ECOWAS said last week that they would send a force within days, but this has not materialized. The United States is also considering deploying troops but has said it

will not do so until ECOWAS has sent in peacekeepers, the bulk of whom are expected to be Nigerian. Well Nigeria's president, Olusegun Obasanjo, arrived in London yesterday for talks with the British prime minister, Tony Blair. The BBC's [? Edwards] spoke to him and asked him why troops have still not been deployed.

OBASANJO: Well, it is in our back yard. It is our problem. But it is not our problem alone. It is in fact Africa's problem and it is world problem.

Okay, but US Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said it is very important if we're going to succeed in dealing with a large number of unstable places in the world that countries of the region – in this case Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal – who have the capability and have expressed the will to do the job be in the lead. The suggestion is you're not leading.

OBASANJO: We are leading. If we are not leading we wouldn't have suggested more than three weeks ago that we have the troops ready.

But they're not there.

OBASANJO: They're not there because we haven't got the capacity to do all that is necessary, and we made that clear.

When you look at the situation on the ground, the killings day by day, perhaps as many as a thousand people killed in the past week, cholera, looting, collapse of civil order, what does that do to you?

OBASANJO: I think that, I feel that the world should have itself to blame. [Indistinct] there is any conflict in the world and people are killing in thousands. It is the responsibility of the world as a whole. Of course, the countries of the region, the sub-region, must feel concerned and must be ready to be in the vanguard. And this is what Liberia has done.

Look at me – you are not there. You've been saying you should be there, you accept moral responsibility, and you're not there.

OBASANJO: We accept responsibility within the limit of our resources, and the world must know that Nigeria has made contribution to Liberia before. We spent well over \$12 billion when we were in Liberia and Sierra Leone for well over twelve years. The world did not acknowledge that, not even in terms of giving us debt relief for the contribution we made.

We know that there are over 4,500 US troops (sic.) sitting at sea off the coast. What do you want them to do?

OBASANJO: Well not what I want them to do, what do they want to do?

They're waiting for you. They're saying when the West African peace force goes in they will then be prepared to come in. They're waiting for you.

OBASANJO: I like that – if your house is on fire and somebody says 'here I am, I have my water fire engine. Now, when you put your fire out on your house I will come in.' I wonder what sort of help that is. With all due respect, what we are saying is give us adequate material and logistic support and we will do the job. Now, what have we got from any of the countries? Not up to now. And we are saying, when we went there before, we went to Liberia, nobody gave us support, and we lost well over 1,000 Nigerians. As I said to you, it cost us [indistinct] \$12 billion. Now what we are saying that we have two battalions of over 1,500 ready to go in. We cannot do that alone.

Transcription by the Sierra Leone Web.

BBC - Peacekeepers unlikely to deploy immediately**29/07/03**

BBC NEWS: West African officials who have been meeting in Ghana say it is unlikely that there can be an imminent deployment of regional peacekeeping troops in Liberia, where fighting between government forces and two rebel movements has intensified. The officials from the regional grouping ECOWAS said the fighting was preventing even the dispatch of a reconnaissance mission. Some 1,300 Nigerian troops are still standing by in Sierra Leone (sic.) to be transferred to Liberia, but Nigeria's president, Olusegun Obasanjo, says his country needs more outside help to bear the financial and logistical burdens of leading the operation. On Monday, rebel forces took control of Liberia's second largest city, Buchanan. A government spokesman said the Liberian army was planning a counter-attack.

Transcription by the Sierra Leone Web.



30 July: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked the Security Council to approve the immediate deployment of Nigerian peacekeepers to Liberia, using logistics from UNAMSIL, the U.N. peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone. In a letter to the Council on Tuesday, Annan said he needed a mandate to speed up the transfer of one, and possibly two, battalions from Sierra Leone to Liberia. Annan asked the Council to give UNAMSIL "the necessary mandate to use its resources to provide full support for the deployment and sustainment" of a vanguard peacekeeping force from the West African regional body ECOWAS. In Monrovia, the Liberian government rejected a LURD ceasefire which would have left the rebel group in control of the capital city's port. Rebel leaders said they would pull back to Freeport to await the arrival of West African peacekeepers, and then withdraw beyond the Po River. "(LURD) must release their stranglehold on the city and that means withdrawing to the positions they held prior to the June 17 ceasefire agreement," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lewis Brown told the Reuters news agency in Accra. Despite LURD's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire, fighting between government and rebel forces continued in the capital Tuesday. In the east, government troops battled to recapture the port city of Buchanan, which was overrun by MODEL rebel forces on Monday. Because of the rebel attacks, Liberian President Charles Taylor is reportedly reconsidering his pledge to step down and leave the country. Earlier this month, Taylor accepted an offer of asylum in Nigeria which would shield him from war crimes charges by the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor insisted he would remain on until peacekeepers arrived in his country. Now, according to the Reuters news agency, his spokesman says he may decide not to leave after all. "We are of a different opinion now in the government about the validity of the overtures of the president to step down," Vaani Passawe said. "So if you start hearing us say differently, you shouldn't be surprised." Passawe said Taylor's offer to go into exile had been interpreted by the rebels as a sign of weakness. "In fact, it has escalated the war," he said.

<http://www.sierra-leone.org/slnews.html>

More Pakistani peacekeepers off to Sierra Leone

Staff Report

LAHORE: The first batch of the Pakistan Contingent-III peacekeeping troops left on Tuesday on a United Nations (UN) chartered aircraft to join the relief rotation programme under the UN Mission in Sierra Leon (UNAMSIL).

According to an official press release, Pakistan has contributed more than 8,000 troops to this mission during the last two years, forming a major part of UN peacekeepers in Sierra Leone. Pakistan Contingent-III members will replace their counterparts from the Pakistan Contingent-II who will return after the completion of their tour of duty.

Speaking to the troops, General Commanding Officer Major General Afzal Muzaffar said they were embarking on a noble mission and were ambassadors of Pakistan. He said their every action should prove their dedication and love for humanity. He hoped the troops would live up to the standards of professional commitment attained by their predecessors.

Pakistan has always been in the forefront of the UN efforts to bring peace in the world through its active involvement in the UN peacekeeping operations. Once, Pakistan was the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission. Pakistani troops have earned great respect for their country through sincere efforts for peace and humanitarian works in various regions.

Daily times of Pakistan

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_30-7-2003_pg7_32

Annan urges rapid Liberia deployment (BBC News)

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked the Security Council to approve the immediate deployment of Nigerian peacekeepers to war-torn Liberia.

In a letter to the council Mr Annan said the "dramatic deterioration of the situation on the ground" made it essential for the council to authorise a "robust mandate".

He said the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone was ready to transport a battalion of Nigerians being sent to Liberia, which could be reinforced within days by other West African forces.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Government rejected the terms of a new ceasefire declared by the main rebel group, Lurd, which offered to suspend hostilities if its fighters were allowed to remain in the port area of the capital, Monrovia, until peacekeepers arrived.

If nothing is done soon, all the patients are going to die
Mohamed Sheriff
Monrovia's JFK Hospital

The BBC's Paul Welsh in Monrovia says conditions in the capital Monrovia are "dreadful" with increasing numbers of children facing malnourishment as food and water supplies run dangerously low. With the rebel siege entering its 11th day, prices are soaring and the country's staple food, rice, is running out fast.

US 'will help'

International aid groups say they can do little to help the 1.3m people trapped in the city.

"We are rapidly depleting our stocks of medicines, fuel for the generator and food," said Mohamed Sheriff, from Monrovia's JFK Hospital.

"If nothing is done soon, all the patients are going to die," he said, adding that current supplies could keep the hospital up and running for about three weeks.

People cannot believe the international community is standing back and failing to intervene in the crisis, our correspondent says.

Nigeria has said it is willing to deploy its two battalions to Liberia immediately, provided there is logistical support from the international community, Mr Annan said.

If necessary, and if the Security Council approves, Mr Annan said the UN mission in Sierra Leone also had the capacity to sustain the two Nigerian battalions "for a limited period in Liberia".

The US force off the coast of Liberia was also prepared to assist the deployment of West African peacekeepers, Mr Annan added.

US President George Bush ordered three US warships to Liberia but he has said he wants a ceasefire in place before releasing his troops.

Emaciated babies

Earlier on Tuesday, the government launched a counter-attack against a second rebel group, which seized the Liberian port city of Buchanan.

Monrovia is a living hell
Refugee Kate Wright

The fighting around Buchanan has raised fears that the humanitarian situation for many thousands of Liberian refugees could further worsen.

"Buchanan was the only alternative way to ship food into Liberia. Now - you can forget about it," Frederic Bardou said at a feeding centre in Monrovia run by Action Contre la Faim, or Action Against Hunger.

Around him, emaciated babies hung from their mothers' shoulders, reports the AP news agency.

The rebels are trying to overthrow President Charles Taylor, who has been indicted by a United Nations-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone.

He has agreed to quit and accept asylum in Nigeria - but only after peacekeepers come to Liberia.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/3107713.stm>

Published: 2003/07/30 09:13:27 GMT

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Date: 30 Jul 2003

Liberia: Fighting rages in Monrovia, west African military experts due to arrive

MONROVIA, July 30 (AFP) - Fighting raged Wednesday at two key bridges leading to the heart of Monrovia as a west African military team was expected in the war-riven Liberian capital to assess the situation ahead of the promised deployment of peacekeepers.

General Benjamin Yeaten said rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) forces "are still shelling our positions. There is fairly heavy fighting going on at the old and new bridges" leading into the city centre.

Yeaten, the deputy chief of staff of the Liberian army, said the west African country's second city Buchanan, overrun by the smaller Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) on Monday, was also witnessing fierce battles.

"Our forces are making good progress there," he said. "We have retaken the port."

Meanwhile, General Festus Okokwo was due to arrive in Liberia on Wednesday to conduct an evaluation mission before the despatch of troops by the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Okokwo, a Nigerian, is the leader of the proposed first contingent of troops offered by Nigeria, west Africa's regional powerhouse.

Nigeria has pledged to send two mechanised battalions totalling around 1,500 men to Liberia, where rebels have closed in on the capital Monrovia in fighting that has claimed hundreds of civilian lives.

But a meeting Monday on a timetable for the soldiers' deployment failed to set a date as promised, deciding instead that military leaders first had to evaluate the situation on the ground in Monrovia.

The deployment of the Nigerian contingent has been delayed by haggling between Nigeria and the United States over the cost of the west African peacekeeping force, a senior Nigerian official told AFP in Abuja.

"Nigeria is somewhat reluctant to send in troops without firm guarantees that the expenditure that will be incurred will at least in a substantial part be defrayed by other states and international organisations," an aide to Obasanjo told AFP.

ach/gd AFP

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Received by NewsEdge Insight: 07/30/2003 04:29:40

Source: World Vision

Date: 30 Jul 2003

World Vision Liberia update

As the security situation remains precarious in Liberia's capital Monrovia, World Vision is working to deliver aid and provide health services to the population.

At the S.K.D. stadium (with over 40,000 displaced persons) World Vision's clinic is intact and rendering services to IDPs on a 24-hour basis. The services are carried out by medically qualified IDPs and staff seconded to WVL by the Ministry of Health. Despite the on-going hostilities, World Vision was able to replenish drugs at the clinic.

Massive movement of displaced persons to Harbel city has been reported, where Liberia's firestone plantation is located. Some residents are moving towards Paynesville, which has remained relatively safe, while others are moving towards Kakata, a city about 50 kilometres north of Monrovia.

During lulls in fighting, residents search for scarce food and drinking water, and spend time burying their dead. "People have started to eat leaves and anything that seems edible, while the security situation remains hopeless," declared Alex Slewion, World Vision Liberia security officer. T

With the sea port of Monrovia under the control of the rebels, fuel scarcity has also hit the city. The government claims to have just enough fuel for one week. In a city dependent on privately owned generators, utter darkness at night is likely.

The World Vision International President (Dr. Dean Hirsch) on 24th July, declared a Category III Complex Humanitarian Emergency (CHE) to address the overwhelming human needs caused by the continuing war in Liberia. A Category III declaration mobilises World Vision's Global Rapid Response Team and requires the highest level of Partnership relief and disaster response.

Liberia poised for more violence as truce rejected

By Matthew Tostevin

MONROVIA, July 30 (Reuters) - The crackle of bullets and crash of mortar bombs echoed across Monrovia after the government on Tuesday rejected an offer by rebels to stop fighting and let peacekeepers deploy in the Liberian capital.

Mortar bombs slammed into the capital's eastern suburbs late on Tuesday, giving no respite to residents of the city which has been under siege for 12 days by rebels bent on toppling President Charles Taylor.

Hundreds of people have been killed and water and food are running low in Monrovia where residents said they were bracing for another day of fighting on Wednesday.

"We are weary hearted, we are tormented, we are confused," said Stephen Parker at a refugee camp outside Monrovia. "We just want the international community to hear our plea".

Residents also reported fighting in Buchanan, Liberia's second port. Although government forces advanced deep into the southern city overall control remains unclear there.

The government rejected the rebels' latest ceasefire offer -- the fourth such truce since a June 17 peace accord that was supposed to stop fighting.

"How many times in one week can they call a ceasefire? We don't put any value in it," Information Minister Reginald Goodridge told Reuters.

He said the rebels should withdraw back to positions they held when the first truce was agreed in June.

ANNAN DEEPLY CONCERNED

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked on Tuesday the Security Council to approve the immediate deployment of a Nigerian force to Liberia, saying he was deeply concerned about the dramatic deterioration of the situation on the ground.

But West African leaders have yet to set a date for the deployment, which is being delayed by haggling over who should fund the mission.

An official from West Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS said it was "very likely" that a reconnaissance mission would head to Liberia on Wednesday to work out the logistics of a deployment.

He said the mission, which has been repeatedly postponed because of the ongoing fighting, would take at least two days, and no troops would be deployed before its conclusion.

The United States, under increasing pressure to do something to stop the carnage in a country founded in the name of liberty by freed American slaves, was sending his top Africa man to the region to request that all of Liberia's neighbours crack down on arms supplies to the rebels.

The first country to be visited on Wednesday by Assistant Secretary of State Walter Kansteiner was Guinea, which is seen as the main backer of the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

The U.S. has ordered three warships carrying troops to take up positions off Liberia's coast, but Washington is reluctant to put any combat troops on the ground and says its soldiers will simply help the deployment of West African troops.

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Liberian Troops Fight To Retake City Of Buchanan (UN WIRE.org)

Tuesday, July 29, 2003

Forces loyal to Liberian President Charles Taylor said today they launched an attack aimed at retaking the city of Buchanan from rebels who overran the area.

"Right now we are fighting in central Buchanan. They are not making it easy, but our men are beating them back," Defense Minister Daniel Chea told [Reuters](#).

Known as the Movement for Democracy in Liberia, or MODEL, the rebels fighting for control of Buchanan represent a smaller insurgent faction than fighters with the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), who have been attacking Monrovia in recent days.

MODEL fighters said yesterday they had captured Buchanan, a major port less than 100 kilometers from the country's main international airport (Reuters, July 29).

In Monrovia, LURD rebels showed no signs of letting up their offensive, which U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan called "reckless."

"I think by this reckless behavior that is killing many innocent Liberians and making it impossible for us to deliver humanitarian assistance, they are disqualifying themselves from any future role in Liberian life," Annan said.

Meanwhile, West African leaders trying to negotiate an end to the crisis failed to set a date for deployment of a proposed peacekeeping force to Liberia and instead decided on sending an evaluation mission first (Chanda/Goujon, [Agence France-Presse/ReliefWeb](#), July 28).

The United States sent a senior diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Walter Kansteiner, to the region for talks on the crisis and condemned MODEL's move on Buchanan.

"We urged the Movement for Democracy in Liberia in the strongest terms to avoid worsening the situation and especially not to attack the port of Buchanan," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

"Such action would undermine all the efforts being made to deploy an international force to stabilize the situation and efforts to reach a peace agreement in Accra [Ghana's capital]," said Boucher, who added, "We will hold this group responsible for its actions" ([AFP/ReliefWeb](#), July 28).

The United States has ordered three warships to anchor off the Liberian coast, and Reuters reported today that the U.S. military has called up a merchant ship to carry ammunition and material from Spain to West Africa, a move the news agency said could signal a willingness to deploy troops ([Reuters](#), July 29).

Liberia : la trêve refusée, les Nations unies interpellées

LEMONDE.FR | 30.07.03 | 08h59 - MIS À JOUR LE 30.07.03 | 08h12

Se disant très inquiet de la situation au Liberia, le secrétaire général des Nations unies, Kofi Annan, a annoncé mardi soir qu'il avait l'intention de "commencer immédiatement" les préparatifs nécessaires pour une intervention de l'ONU dans ce pays.

Après onze jours de combats quasi incessants contre les forces du président Charles Taylor dans la capitale, Monrovia, les Libériens unis pour la réconciliation et la démocratie (LURD) ont proclamé, mardi 29 juillet, une trêve unilatérale, la quatrième en un peu plus d'un mois. Mais les autorités libériennes ont refusé l'offre de cessez-le-feu et les combats ont repris presque aussitôt.

Le numéro un de la délégation gouvernementale libérienne aux négociations de paix d'Accra, au Ghana, a en effet rejeté cette proposition en disant que les rebelles devaient se retirer complètement de Monrovia. Les LURD "*doivent relâcher leur emprise sur la ville et cela signifie se retirer sur les positions qu'ils tenaient avant l'accord de cessez-le-feu du 17 juin*", a déclaré Lewis Brown, ministre d'Etat libérien aux affaires étrangères. Avant cet accord, les positions des rebelles se situaient en dehors des limites de la ville.

Le chef de la délégation du LURD au Ghana avait auparavant déclaré que les rebelles cesseraient les combats et attendraient dans le port de Monrovia le déploiement de troupes de la Communauté des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao).

"LA DÉTÉRIORATION DRAMATIQUE DE LA SITUATION"

Se déclarant très inquiet de la situation au Liberia, le secrétaire général des Nations unies, Kofi Annan, a annoncé, mardi soir, qu'il avait l'intention de "*commencer immédiatement*" les préparatifs nécessaires pour une intervention de l'ONU au Liberia. "*Sous réserve d'instruction du Conseil de sécurité, c'est mon intention de commencer immédiatement les préparations nécessaires à l'opération prévue des Nations unies au Liberia*", a-t-il fait savoir dans une lettre au président du Conseil de sécurité rendue publique mardi.

M. Annan, qui détaille les mesures qu'il entend voir mettre en oeuvre, écrit qu'il "*sera essentiel que le Conseil de sécurité permette un mandat fort pour cette force afin qu'elle dispose d'une capacité de dissuasion crédible*". Le secrétaire général avait déjà demandé à la fin juillet au Conseil de sécurité de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour envoyer à Monrovia une force multinationale chargée de la sécurité et avait suggéré que les Etats-Unis en prennent la tête.

Le président américain, George W. Bush, n'a toujours pas pris sa décision, la soumettant à un certain nombre de conditions préalables alors que, après un cessez-le-feu intervenu en juin, les combats ont repris à Monrovia et se sont étendus lundi à la seconde ville du pays, Buchanan.

"*Je suis profondément préoccupé par la détérioration dramatique de la situation sur le terrain à la suite de la reprise des combats à Monrovia le 16 juillet*", écrit M. Annan. "*Il est absolument essentiel, poursuit-il, d'accélérer le déploiement de 'l'avant garde' de la force de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao) qui doit préparer la voie au déploiement rapide de la force multinationale.*" La présence préalable des forces de la Cedeao sur

place est l'une des conditions que le président Bush, qui a donné cette semaine l'ordre à des navires chargés de troupes de faire route vers le Liberia, a mises à l'engagement de soldats américains à Monrovia.

M. Annan propose, dans sa lettre au Conseil de sécurité, que la Mission des Nations unies en Sierra Leone (Minusil) se charge de transporter à Monrovia le bataillon nigérian affecté à cette mission et que le gouvernement de Lagos a offert d'utiliser au Liberia. *"J'appelle le Conseil à donner à ce sujet une considération urgente"*, demande le secrétaire général. Le Nigeria a proposé à la Cedeao ce bataillon, plus un second actuellement à Lagos, pour un déploiement rapide à Monrovia où 400 000 réfugiés sont à la merci des bombardements et des attaques des rebelles qui affrontent les fidèles du président Charles Taylor. La Cedeao a accepté cette offre mais ne dispose pas de la logistique permettant l'acheminement de ces deux bataillons, soit quelque 1 500 hommes au total.

Avec Reuters et AFP

Independent Observer

Wednesday July 30, 2003

United Nations Tells Sierra Leone To Strengthen Police, Army

A United Nations Security Mission which visited West African last month has recommended that the government of Sierra Leone intensify its efforts to develop the capacity of its armed forces and police to ensure security when UN peacekeepers leaves at the end of next year.

According to Council President Inocencio Farias of Spain, the mission recommended that the UN carefully assess Sierra Leone's successful Disarmament,

Demobilisation and Re-integration Programme, and give careful consideration to the roles played by women during the conflict, and in subsequent peacemaking and peace building. Regionally, the mission emphasised the importance of a sub regional approach to such issues as small arms and light weapons proliferation, the problem of mercenaries, and child soldiers and humanitarian access to aid workers.

Special Court Indictment

Kassim

Basma

Restless

By Abubakarr Joe Sesay

THIS medium has learnt that Kassim Basma, the notorious diamond Kakatowa is no longer at ease. The short, stuffy, fairly old man has slightly lost weight.

He became restless, confused, worried and tormented ever since allegations of involvement with the RUF were levelled against him.

His predicament was aggravated by a relentless campaign mounted by this paper, asking him to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, where the allegation was first made and publicly clear his name. He later chose to do so in camera and the contents of his concocted report remains unknown.

Kassim Basma now shuttles frequently between Freetown and Kono, spending very little time here amid fears that the long arm of the Special Court which pledged to drag crooked businessmen to justice for complicity, could grab him. He is confident that he can easily sneak out of the country from Kono in the event that he is indicted.

Meanwhile, certain unscrupulous government officials whose palms he greases almost fortnightly have strongly assured him that nothing will ever come out of the matter even if the RUF were to formally issue a statement implicating him in their nasty adventure.

Read our next edition and find out how Kassim

Paramount Chiefs to deaf their ears to the cries of their traumatised subjects.

Basma has been destroying Kono - between Tombodu and Kamara Chiefdom - how he keeps exploiting the natives and buying out

The Democrat

Wednesday July 30, 2005

That London Demonstration

At we are not in Nigeria where religious fanaticism has caused some people to lose their sense of reasoning. What instead has gripped us is political fanaticism. Politics has made people monofocal. The Hinga Norman indictment by the Special Court has many interpretations and ramifications.

Some people are blowing hot and cold on the issue. Time seems to have done its own part allowing it to sink into people's minds and put

it into the sub conscious. Just last week an uncertain and obscure figure in the name of Moijueh Kaikai rekindled the spirit of the Norman sympathy. Taking advantage of President Kabbah's visit to London, he rallied round party members in Britain, not more than 15 actually and not 100 as he claimed over the BBC, to show solidarity with detained Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Those who think in similar lines as Moijueh Kaikai believe

Norman has been scapegoatized and betrayed by Kabbah. There is another school of thought that says that impunity should be broken, and therefore if Chief Norman bears responsibility, he should be made to pay for his actions.

President Kabbah and his many foreign friends belong to the second school of thought - that the cycle of impunity should be broken. And President Kabbah was

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emphatic and convincing about this when he addressed the SLPP UK/Ireland branch. Kaikai and his band of 15 staged the protest after the President had addressed the larger branch members. The President's argument and the members conviction, made Kaikai's protest look like a big joke. The special Court, because of its hybrid nature, is above the laws of Sierra Leone. The crimes under its jurisdiction are of an international nature. Some acts of people are beyond comprehension. Admitted that the cause which Hinga Norman fought for was a national one, but the boys he commanded had their own excesses. Whether Norman's arrest is the aggregation of betrayal is a matter of personal opinion, but the fact is that as coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces, he and his boys have some explanation to do. The other reality is that some Kamajors, especially those from the rhondo, hold a lot against Chief Norman. From embezzlement of funds to reduction in ration, the grudges are many. They have testified and can testify

against him.

But while the debate rages as is awakened by Kaikai, one man at the centre of it all, from a political angle anyway is the SLPP Secretary General Dr. Prince Harding. When Norman was arrested he was the first person to visit the family at their Spur Road residence. Mrs. Mamie Norman revealed this to a section of the press when a visit was made there. Dr. Harding was also the man who took time off his busy schedule to visit the Kamajor strongholds to cushion the effect of the ripples the arrest could have had. After Kaikai's interview this press put it to him that the reverberations of Norman's arrest have reached far and wide. The effulgent Secretary General said: "Moijueh and others are missing the points. Hinga Norman was not arrested because of his political appointment as Deputy Defence Minister. He was indicted because he was National Coordinator of the CDF. President Kabbah as Defence Minister cannot come in because of Norman's arrest. The two

positions are different.

"Besides the whole world was looking at us to see if we could tolerate impunity.

The international reputation of the government and country were at stake. And the national interest subsumes all other interests. Our people out there are oblivious of certain realities. The president explained this to the UK/Ireland branch and they understood it."

"Personally I do not think demonstrations are the best ways of dealing with such situations. Any real patriot should embark on mustering his energy and financial muscle to put up a strong defence counsel for Hinga Norman. President Kabbah cannot do anything in terms of altering the course of the court. We are a democracy and the rule of law is a cardinal tenet of democracy. President Kabbah as an embodiment of that democracy will not do anything to make a mockery of that democracy."

Whilst the debate goes on, the real issue of finding a strong defence for Norman continues. The Secretary General acknowledges it and prefers that to Moijueh's protest action.

New Vision

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The New Citizen

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TRC MAY NOT GO

BY MARIAMA COKER

The Truth and Reconciliation's operational period which kicked-off late last year, ends in October this year.

But it is highly speculated that the TRC's life span may be extended for another six months. The New Citizen seized the opportunity to catch up with the TRC's Chief of Information and Education Officer, Mr. Daniel Adekera, at his Jomo Kenyatta Road office for further clarification.

Adekera reacting to questions from the New Citizen noted that the commission was not created by the commissioners and that their



**BISHOP HUMPER,
TRC BOSS**

major mandate is to help Sierra Leoneans to reconcile with each other according to the powers that were vested in them by the president of this country and other signatories

to the peace agreement. "The President has the power to extend our term of operations as he is one of the partners that mandated us," Adekera firmly reacted.

Giving an insight of their mandate, he maintained that the commission has captured samples of testimonies from witnesses that have already testified before the commission. According to him, the commission has practically covered most of the vital areas in the area of testimonies but that the members of the commission are working hard to

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produce an analysed and synthesized report of their findings about the civil war after which, the commission according to him, will be desolved and a special implementing committee will be formed to implement the commission's recommendations.

Adekera further noted that the life span of TRC's in other countries has never been restricted to less than

two years but that the Sierra Leone TRC was mandated to cover a period of just one year, not withstanding the fact that the war in Sierra Leone lasted for ten years. "If the mandate of TRC is extended, this will give an opportunity to the commissioners to put even greater premium in the area of reconciliation," Mr. Adekera assured.

The public hearing samples, he noted, were

from victims and perpetrators, including women, children, Civil Defence, Army and Police Forces. Giving examples, he referred to the Chief of Defence Staff, Brig. Tom Carew, who appeared before the commission for various issues and APC's Victor Foh who also appeared for the May 25 1997 coup, the junta killings and his own role.