

**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 May 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 29 May 2008**

### **Justice Renate Winter Elected President of Special Court**

Justice Renate Winter of Austria has been elected to a one-year term, effective 30 May, as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes her President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She succeeds Justice George Gelag-King of Sierra Leone, who has served as President since 2006.

Justice Winter has previously served as international judge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, as part of the United Nations interim civilian administration. She is an expert on family law, as well as on juvenile justice systems, women's justice issues, pedophilia, child labour and the role of the media in advocacy.

Since 1981, Justice Winter has been a Judge at the Vienna Youth Court, where she has undertaken projects to help rehabilitate youth with problems of drug addiction and mental disability. Justice Winter has also worked on projects relating to youth and child soldiers for the United Nations, including in numerous African countries. She also has dealt with issues of organized crime and restorative justice. Throughout the 1990s, Justice Winter chaired numerous international conferences on matters relating to juvenile justice and gender-related justice issues. She is currently President of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges.



Justice Winter joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002. She served as Acting President of the Special Court from March to May 2004.

#END



**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 30 May 2008**

### **Justice Jon Kamanda Elected Vice President of Special Court**

Justice Jon Kamanda of Sierra Leone has been unanimously elected Vice President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.



Justice Kamanda holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and International Relations from Durham University (FBC), and a Diploma in Education from the University of Sierra Leone.

He trained as a Barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law in London, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1975. From 1976-80 he worked as State Prosecutor in the Government Law Office, rising to the rank of Senior State Counsel. In 1980 he entered private practice in criminal law.

Justice Kamanda has served as an Appeals Court Justice in the Sierra Leone judiciary since 2004, and is the Presiding Judge in criminal appeals. He has also served as a High Court Judge in the Civil Division.

In 1982 he was elected to Parliament, and he has served as Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Minister of Health.

He was sworn in as a Special Court Appeals Judge in November 2007.

#END

Independent Observer

Friday, 30 May 2008

# New Special Court President Named

Justice Renate Winter of Austria has been elected to a one-year term, effective 30 May, as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes her President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She succeeds Justice George Gelaga - King of Sierra Leone, who has served as President since 2006.

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## Special Court

*from front page*

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Justice Winter joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002. She serves as Acting President of the Special Court from March to May 2004

Awareness Times  
Friday, 30 May 2008

## **AWARENESS TIMES NEWS BRIEFS**

### **More Jail Terms for CDF Indictees**

Two former Civil Defence Forces leaders have been given more jail terms for war crimes and crimes against humanity for their roles played in the 11 years carnage. Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa had earlier been sentenced to 6 and 8 years terms respectively. But according to reports, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has increased the jail sentences to take effect from May 2003. Moinina will now serve 15 years while Alieu Kondowa will be in gaol for 20 years.

# YOU SAID IT



**Brima Tanga**



**Kabba Kargbo**



**Mohamed Bundu**



**Rebecca Thomas**



**Moses Decker**

*The five judges of the Appeals Chambers of the Special Court on Wednesday this week, handed down judgment on two CDF accused Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa, who had been convicted on 4 and 5 counts respectively, by the trial chamber and sentenced to serve 6 and 8 years jail terms respectively. But the two accused persons appealed their sentence.*

*The two were arrested on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2003 and yesterday marked their 5<sup>th</sup> year in detention. The Appeals chamber's judgment surprised the accused their relatives and even the defence lawyers when they substantially increased the sentences of the two accused persons. The jail terms for Moinina Fofana was increased from 6 years to 15 years and Alieu Kondewa from 8 years to 20 years.*

*Our reporter Saidu Bah went around the streets of Freetown to sound the views and comments of ordinary Sierra Leoneans over the increase in sentence of the two CDF accused persons.*

#### **Mohamed Bundu**

So far, I believe that the Special Court in Sierra Leone is a professional body and that what they have got from all evidences they have gathered it is their mandate to go into the judgment they have passed, as a peaceful citizen we are all trying to consolidate the hard won peace.

But I am kindly appealing to the Special Court to pardon the inditees and consider a soft punishment on them wherein

they can serve the previous five and six years sentences respectively, despite the crimes they committed against humanity.

#### **Brima Tanga**

To my own opinion, I think this judgment is selective justice because increasing the jail term of the CDF inditees can not be understood considering the previous judgment by the Court. It is true that they might have committed crimes during the war, but the court must understand these people (CDF) fought for the restoration of Tejan Kabbah and democracy.

I want the special court to know that giving the inditees a long jail term cannot help those affected by the war, but this judgment is unbelievable and we the people are against it.

#### **Kabba Kargbo**

As a retired teacher I am concerned with discipline, law and order, it is the best way possible to have peace and justice working simultaneously to ensure crimes committed by individuals are brought to book so that it can deter others from doing it.

As a Sierra Leonean I think we need to establish some sort of direction in maintaining peace even for those behind bars and I hope their human rights will be respected at all levels at the detention center, but the judgment is a step in the right direction but the jail term is exorbitant and they (Special Court) needs to be reviewed for the credibility of the Court in

the eyes of the Sierra Leoneans they claim to defend.

#### **Moses Decker**

I don't rely understand the activities of this Court, it is true that when an individual commits a crime, he or she must be punished for it, but in the CDF situation it happened during the war and so many things happened legally and illegally to restore peace and democracy in the country.

I don't have problem with the Special Court trials but this judgment on the CDF inditees needs to be reduced to a jail term that is commensurate to the crimes they committed.

#### **Rebecca Thomas**

I don't like the special court operation in this country, because lives and properties lost cannot be regained and sentencing inditees for long jail terms cannot also solve the problem.

I want this government and the international community to ensure that the Special Court trials be taken out of the country, because the real perpetrators of the crimes are still roaming the streets with impunity, and that indicting their leaders will not appease the victims.

If the Special Court, wants to ensure that there is justice in Sierra Leone let them indict the real perpetrators who had the guns and knives chasing people from one place to another for their lives and properties, because some of them committed crimes on their own, and their leaders had no knowledge about it during the war.

## Xinhua (China)

Thursday, 29 May 2008

### **Austrian jurist elected head of UN-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone**

UNITED NATIONS, May 29 (Xinhua) -- An experienced Austrian judge has been chosen as the head of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the UN-backed war crimes tribunal said Thursday.

Renate Winter was elected to a one-year term as the presiding judge of the appeals chamber, a post which automatically makes her the SCSL president, the tribunal said in a statement.

Winter, who joined the SCSL in 2002, will replace George Gelaga King on Friday, the statement said.

She has an extensive background in family law, juvenile justice systems, women's justice issues and child labor.

The new president has also worked for the world body on projects relating to youth and child soldiers, said the SCSL, which was established to deal with crimes committed during a civil war in Sierra Leone.



## Cocorioko website

Thursday, 29 May 2008

### **Australian heads Special Court for Sierra Leone**

Written by Moses Kargbo

Justice Renate Winter of Austria has today been elected to a one-year term as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court, a post which automatically makes her President of the Court. She succeeds Sierra Leonean Justice George Gelaga-King, who has served in that capacity since 2006.

According to a statement from the Court, Justice Winter joined the Special Court in 2002, serving as Acting President from March to May 2004. She has previously served as international judge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, as part of the UN interim civilian administration in that country. She is an expert on family law, as well as on juvenile justice systems, women's justice issues, paedophilia, child labour and the role of the media in advocacy.

Since 1981, Justice Winter has been a Judge at the Vienna Youth Court, where she has undertaken projects to help rehabilitate youth with problems of drug addiction and mental disability. The learned judge has also worked on projects relating to youth and child soldiers for the United Nations, including in numerous African countries.

She also has dealt with issues of organized crime and restorative justice. Throughout the 1990s, Justice Winter chaired numerous international conferences on matters relating to juvenile justice and gender-related justice issues. She is currently President of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges.

BBC

Thursday, 29 May 2008

## SL tribunal doubles prison terms

**Sierra Leone's UN-backed war crimes court has more than doubled the prison terms of two former pro-government militia leaders during the civil war.**

Judges said the original terms did not reflect the gravity of their crimes.

Moinina Fofana's sentence was increased to 15 years from six and Allieu Kondewa's to 20 years from eight.

The men led the Civil Defence Force that fought against rebels in the 10-year war in which some 50,000 were killed and many more maimed and raped.

### 'Welcome'

The UN court originally convicted Fofana and Kondewa last year in what was a controversial trial.

The CDF recruited traditional Kamajor hunter militias to fight various rebel groups.

Correspondents say many Sierra Leoneans see the CDF as a force that fought for a noble cause, to defend the population against brutal rebel groups such as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

When the head of Kamajors, Sam Hinga Norman, was indicted five years ago there was public outcry. He has since died in custody.

The new decision on sentences was welcomed by Human Rights Watch, which said there was no excuse for attacking and mutilating civilians.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up when the war officially ended in 2002 to try those people who bore the greatest responsibility for the atrocities.



The Kamajor militia supported the government in the civil war

Public Agenda (Liberia)  
Friday, 30 May 2008

# 2 Prominent Lawyers To Address PUL's Forum Today

Two Liberian lawyers will today provide opinions on the ongoing Taylor trial in the Huge as they address the May edition of Press Union of Liberia intellectual discourse, the Edward Wilmot Blyden Forum. International Law and Political Science Professor at the

University of Liberia, Jonathan Williams and a member of the Taylor Defense Team, Lavala Supuwood will both speak on the topic, "The Taylor Trial: A Search for Justice or a

Political Payback "Lessons to Learn". The PUL says it is bringing the counselors together as part of its long term objective of setting the stage for a free exchange of ideas as a way of resolving conflicts rather than resulting to fight.

The Union says it sees the Taylor trial as a turning point in the Liberian body politics that should be kept in focus to teach present and unborn generations lessons to avoid future recurrence. The Union is therefore inviting

legal minded people, pro-democracy groups, students, government officials and the entire public to the forum which comes on at 11:00 am in the YMCA auditorium on Broad Street.

New Democrat (Liberia)  
Friday, 30 May 2008

# A Massacre's Hidden Hand Of Truth Buried

**T**he massacre site is now encroached upon by sprawling grass, the houses wiped out. Only a lonely church looks upon it, with declining members. Where hundreds of those hacked to death and indiscriminately shot were buried, rising vegetation conceals the mass grave, the victims un-



PARTIAL VIEW OF HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS MASSACRED

had lived with the truth buried in her, praying for an opportunity to let it known so that she can. That moment came Wednesday in Kakata, where the TRC was collecting testimonies of atrocities committed in the country's 14-year war.

The truth is that certain parties in Mr Charles Taylor's outfit wanted the truth co-



FORMER PRES. TAYLOR THREATENED SURVIVORS WITH DEATH IF THEY TOLD THE TRUTH

known and forgotten.

She stood, terrified before the crowd, facing members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Tears

poured down her cheeks, perhaps as memories of that terrifying event gripped her a decade and half later. Now, she has mustered the courage to let the truth out, something she

could not attempt since 1993, since the threat of death hung over her and 39 others abducted, taken deep in National Patriotic Front of Liberia territory. All these years, Helene Kpa



D. MUSULENG COOPER: ALLEGEDLY PROGRAMMED SURVIVORS TO

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**29 May 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Taylor's Vice President Returns Home after Testifying in The Hague**

*(The News)*

- [sic] Amidst death threats, former Liberian President Moses Blah is back home following speculations that he would not return to the country due to fear of reprisal from supporters of ex- President Charles Taylor. Mr. Blah returned Monday from The Hague, Netherlands, where he testified in the war crimes trial involving ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor. His dramatic testimonies at The Hague prompted angry reactions from a number of associates of Mr. Taylor, including former Maritime Commission Benion Urey who has threatened lawsuit against Mr. Blah. There were also media reports that the family of Mr. Blah had been threatened as a result of his explosive testimonies which appeared to have linked Mr. Taylor to crimes committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone. Former President Blah told this paper via telephone Wednesday that he was suffering from cold, but his health remains generally stable. Mr. Blah said he needed time to rest due to long flight. Asked about security around his domicile, the former Liberian leader said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had ordered SSS Director to increase the presence of state security personnel around him and at his residence. According to him, the UN Mission in Liberian (UNMIL) has also reinforced security at his residence and around him and family as well.

**Draw Down Will Create No Security Vacuum – UN Envoy Reassures Liberians**

*(Heritage)*

- [sic] The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj, has assured southeastern Liberians that the departure of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Senegalese contingent will create no security vacuum. Ms. Løj gave this assurance when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 1,776 UNMIL Ethiopian soldiers in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, close to Liberia's border with Ivory Coast, for their contribution to peace and stability in Liberia. Asserting that UNMIL's drawdown plan is being executed in a careful manner, the SRSG added that "the departure of the Senegalese peacekeepers has been carefully planned for and we have made the necessary adjustments. Our Ethiopian peacekeepers will adequately replace their departing Senegalese colleagues." She reiterated that the UN has invested too much in the stability of Liberia to allow the gains to be jeopardized by inadequate security coverage. The UN Envoy commended the Ethiopians for their efforts towards the maintenance of peace and security in Sinoe, Grand Kru, Rivercess, River Gee and Grand Gedeh counties since their arrival in Liberia over four years ago. She described the security situation in these areas, some of which are very isolated, to be significantly improved.

**UN Celebrates International Day of Peacekeepers Today**

*(The Monitor)*

- [sic] The sixth annual International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be observed today worldwide to honour all peacekeepers, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace. Also on this Day, the United Nations will celebrate the 60th

Anniversary of the start of the first UN peacekeeping operation to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. In Liberia, the UN Mission in Liberia, UNMIL, will observe the Day, beginning at 9:30 am, with a wreath-laying ceremony at UNMIL Headquarters, Pan African Plaza in Monrovia in remembrance of all fallen peacekeepers worldwide. The ceremony will bring together the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj and members of the United Nations family, the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai and senior officials of the Liberian Government, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other partners, as well as all UNMIL peacekeepers.

## Radio Summary

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

#### **Executive Mansion Not Worried About Petition to Impeach President Sirleaf**

- The Executive Mansion has described as unfortunate a petition calling for the impeachment of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).
- On Monday, the aggrieved soldiers filed the impeachment petition alleging that the President violated the Constitution by dissolving the AFL.
- Speaking via telephone from Japan, Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio, said the President was not troubled as she did not dissolve the AFL.
- Mr. Badio said the AFL was instead restructured in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed in Accra, Ghana by all parties including the AFL.
- The Presidential Press Secretary believes the action of the former soldiers is a "scam" to get more money from government and that the President will not be moved or blackmailed.

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

#### **Casual Labourers Take to the Streets in Zwedru**

- Reports from Grand Gedeh County say over 300 casual labourers of the United National Development Programme (UNDP) have converged on the premises of the agency.
- The casual labourers are demanding a settlement of money allegedly owed them by the UNDP.
- The aggrieved UNDP casual labourers said each of them earned US\$123 to US\$125 for road-side brushing in the county for some seven weeks without pay.
- They vowed to continue their protest until the UNDP can settle them.
- Correspondents say UNDP local authorities in the county are currently negotiating with the labourers.

#### **Over 500 Liberian Children Adopted in 10 years, Say Advocacy Groups**

- Over five hundred Liberian children have over the last ten years been adopted and taken to western countries by two adoption agencies.
- Speaking during a public hearing at the House of Representatives on the review of the adoption law of Liberia, Acres of Hope and the African Christian Fellowship International (ACFI) said they ensured the adoption of the children because of the extreme hardship facing their parents.
- The two agencies however said the adoptions were carried out following a screening process involving the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

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

#### **U.S. Congratulates African Union**

- The United States has congratulates the African Union on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment.
- A State Department statement said the union which was transformed from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the AU continues to promote unity, solidarity and said the U.S. looks forward to strengthening partnership with the AU and people striving to promote peace, prosperity and democracy throughout the continent.

#### **Mercy Ship Conducts Eye Testing in Bomi**

- A release issued in Monrovia yesterday said Mercy Ship in collaboration with PARACOM a local medical NGO has carried out an eye testing and screening exercise in Bomi County.
- The release more than 200 visually impaired persons were tested and screened and that 50 persons have qualified for surgery aboard Mercy Ship, while those with minor problems were treated and discharged.

\* \* \* \*

**BBC**

Thursday, 29 May 2008

## Troops resume shooting in Guinea

**Mutinous troops in Guinea have blocked off the administrative district of the capital, Conakry, in a continuing dispute over army pay and conditions.**

The soldiers, who have been shooting at locations across the city, have said they are now demanding the dismissal of top-ranking army officers.

The unrest began on Monday as soldiers demanded pay dating back eight years.

Protests have carried on, despite concessions from the government earlier in the week.

On Thursday, the soldiers set up roadblocks at the entrance to the administrative district, which houses the presidency, the army headquarters and some embassies.

Some shops were closed and residents were keeping off the streets as troops fired off rounds into the air, the BBC's Alhassan Sillah reports from Guinea.

Late on Wednesday, some soldiers forced their way on to an airport runway, preventing a US military plane from landing.

At least two commercial airlines also had to cancel flights before the soldiers returned to their barracks.

### **Looting**

Soldiers from the Alpha Yaya Diallo barracks near the airport took the deputy head of the army captive at their base on Monday.

The soldiers went on the rampage, looting shops and leaving at least one person dead.

Shots were also heard near two inland barracks.

On Tuesday, President Lansana Conte fired the defence minister in a concession to the soldiers.

Prime Minister Ahmed Tidiane Souare then announced that troops would receive GNF5m (\$1,140), and an increase in army rice subsidies in an effort to stop the unrest.

He has also asked the opposition to help him name a consensus government.



Guinean troops have long been demanding back pay



But our correspondent says the concessions do not appear to have appeased the troops.

Soldiers say that some of them have not received any pay since 1996.

President Conte, who took power in a coup in 1984, fought off a similar revolt and general strike last year.

## African Union

Thursday, 29 May 2008

Press Release

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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### Press Release

The Commission of the African Union has been following with some concern the evolution of the situation in Guinea since the replacement of the consensus Prime Minister on 20 May 2008, and particularly the latest developments relating to the claims made by some groups of soldiers in military barracks within and outside Conakry. In this context, the Commission deplores the acts of violence that led to loss of human lives and destruction of properties.

In this regard, the Commission is appealing for calm and restraint and calling on all military personnel involved to stop making use of arms in the camps and various locations in Conakry. The Commission requests state Institutions to immediately initiate dialogue and consultation with all the stakeholders in the country, including the mutineers, with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis and entrenching consensual and lasting solutions to the problems facing Guinea, in conformity with the constitutional order of the country. *DX*

**Addis Ababa, 29 May 2008**