

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



Harpinder "Pin" Athwal, Political Advisor and Special Assistant to the Prosecutor, leaves Sierra Leone today after a year and a month at the Special Court.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Monday, 31 July 2006

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

**Local News**

Statement From No Peace Without Justice on World Justice Day / *Awareness Times* Pages 3-4

**International News**

Will Juba Turn Out to Be a Historical Mistake? / *The Monitor (Kampala)* Pages 5-6

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary (29 July) / *UNMIL* Pages 7-8

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary (28 July) / *UNMIL* Pages 9-11

**Special Court Supplement**

Saturday's Security Evacuation Exercise in Photos / *Press and Public Affairs* Pages 12-13

## Awareness Times

Monday, 31 July 2006

### **Statement From No Peace Without Justice on World Justice Day , 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

This Monday, World Justice Day marks the sixth anniversary of the adoption by 120 States on 17 July 1998 of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002.

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) takes this opportunity to congratulate the international community, in particular the 100 States parties, as well as the large number of States, governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and individuals who have contributed to the strengthening of the international criminal justice system. NPWJ calls on them - and in particular the General Assembly of the United Nations - to designate 17 July every year as official "World Day of International Justice".

Celebrating an officially-designated World Justice Day would both serve as a reminder of the importance of international criminal justice as well as send a signal to would-be perpetrators that the era of impunity is fast coming to an end.

Despite the great advances that have been made, particularly in recent years, there is still much that remains to be done before the international criminal justice system can be considered fully-fledged. While applauding the achievement of the entry into force of the Rome Statute and the attainment of 100 ratifications, the goal must still remain universal ratification. Universal ratification is the surest guarantee that there will be no safe haven anywhere in the world in which alleged war criminals may hide. This was recognized by the African Union through the inclusion in its Plan of Action the ratification of the ICC Statute by all African Union members as one of the five commitments of the African Union. NPWJ urges members of the African Union to fulfill this commitment, as well as the commitment to undertake a moratorium on the death penalty.

Universal ratification is one important tool in strengthening the nascent international criminal justice system and in facilitating its deterrent value, but it is not the only one.

All States parties who have not done so should implement the Rome Statute in their domestic laws, so that they may fulfill their obligations under the Rome Statute and ensure they have the laws to investigate and prosecute those suspected of committing the most serious crimes known to the world. International court and tribunals must follow the example set by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and ensure that the populations most affected by these crimes are engaged in processes designed to provide accountability for those crimes.

While the ICC has begun outreach in the countries in which investigations are occurring, it must do more to establish an interactive relationship with the populations concerned, to ensure that the work of ICC has a positive impact on peace and justice

in those countries.

We fully expect that the Special Court of Sierra Leone can follow the trial of former President Taylor as they have become accustomed to do for other trials before the Court. Perhaps most importantly, countries must not permit their territory to become a refuge for fugitives from justice, no matter their position in their state of origin. For too long, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic have evaded facing justice at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; we can only hope that the five indictees charged before the ICC with having committed the most serious crimes in Uganda and others charged by the ICC in the future are brought to justice as a matter of priority.

World Justice Day marks an important milestone in the history of the world, particularly for the victims of crimes under international law. The world today is very different from how it was a hundred or even fifty years ago; there is at least a chance for victims to see justice brought to bear on those people who have planned and instigated the most serious and horrific crimes imaginable. The Republic of Sierra Leone can be proud for the contribution she has made to the growing international criminal justice system, having had the courage to insist on justice as a path to peace and as an early State party to the Rome Statute. On World Justice Day, everyone who has worked so hard to bring the world to this day can celebrate and be proud, while recognising the many steps that still remain to be taken and strengthening the necessary resolve to bring the era of impunity to a fitting end.

\*\*\*\*

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) is an international non-profit organization working for the establishment of an effective international criminal

Justice system and in support of accountability mechanisms for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, with a view to strengthening democracy and the rule of law worldwide.

Much of its work is conducted in the field, gathering evidence, providing technical support, seconding experts and conducting extensive outreach campaigns. Extensive fieldwork has been conducted in Kosovo, in East Timor and in Sierra Leone.

NPWJ has consistently opposed short-term, unrealistic policies of amnesty or other derogations from democratic principles and the rule of law in the name of stability or an illusory peace.

For further information on NPWJ's work and publications worldwide, see [www.npwj.org](http://www.npwj.org) for information on our work and publications in Sierra Leone, see [www.specialcourt.org](http://www.specialcourt.org). NPWL is a member of the steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC) (see [www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org)).

## The Monitor (Kampala)

Friday, 28 July 2006

### **Will Juba Turn Out to Be a Historical Mistake?**

By Karoli Ssemogerere  
Kampala

A few weeks have passed since the LRA and the Government of Uganda sat face to face to negotiate an end to the northern conflict.

Two or three notable issues remain at the fore. Does the current legal framework allow for a unilateral amnesty for Kony and his commanders?

Domestically, it appears Kony is excluded from the Amnesty Act. Internationally, it appears that the International Criminal Court is not backing down on bringing Kony to trial.

The second issue are the high expectations, Ugandans of note within and outside the country have attached to these talks.

Daring observations have been made of the watershed initiative by the Government of Southern Sudan ("GOSS") which in a few years will form Africa's newest independent state.

GOSS, like Uganda, has legitimate national security interests tied to repatriating Kony and his men from Southern Sudan even though the last intelligence reports have pointed to Kony's men setting up camp in the DRC.

And while GOSS' efforts remain laudable, no one has come up to explain how they can legitimately write away Uganda's Rome Treaty Obligations which require Uganda and her neighbors to afford maximum cooperation in the apprehension and handing over of Joseph Kony.

While the profiles of Kony's men remain mostly obscure, some red herrings obviously exist. LRA's legal advisor Chris Ayena Odongo is an NRM politician, former Corporation Secretary, National Enterprises Corporation, and several times candidate for election from Apac district.

Kony's delegation has made strong presentations at the talks including a demand for disbandment of the UPDF, and publicising alleged atrocities by the UPDF in Northern Uganda.

President Museveni for his part has shown no difficulty in selectively enforcing two sets of laws that tie the lawful hands of his government; an attribute that may lend credence to the latter set of allegations by the LRA delegation.

Absent the ICC backing down and the ICC is mostly right on this one, Kony's indictment will not easily go away. Across the continent in Sierra Leone and Liberia, it was the departure of Charles Taylor that set in motion the beginning of healing of the wounds of thousands who lost lives, limbs in astute horror in the madness that engulfed once the intellectual capital of West Africa.

Demonstrations are periodically reported in Freetown by citizens angry that not enough is being done to apprehend war criminals in their midst.

Granting Kony amnesty without addressing the core environment in which the LRA insurgency has existed for the last fifteen years is a mistake. There are no guarantees that war will not return.

The government is being allowed to get away the easy route without committing to a real plan to uproot the neglect of one third of the country.

A few weeks ago, the Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, sociologist Bazana Tarcisio Kabwegyere exhorted refugees to return home to reconstruct their lives. These strong words are not necessarily accompanied by a budget.

Will the victims of the blood letting in the north ever be compensated for neglect and failure by the government to protect them? The ICC is not a one size fits all solution to the infamy brought about by armed conflict. The US has reaped global ridicule and diminished prestige for opting out of its criminal enforcement provisions for fostering abuses of human rights using laws that dictators in Africa used for years to oppress the opposition and get rid of its opponents.

The ICC standard does not apply to common criminals. It applies to proponents of terror in the past and the present who cannot legitimately be re-absorbed in civilian society.

The President has formally invited leaders of the main political parties in Uganda to State House. The unpublished agenda says a thousand words that the frameworks for constructive dialogue with the opposition are still weak; but it is a good start.

President Daniel Moi, victor in 1992 and 1997 of hotly contested elections in Kenya; was called hundreds of names by his opponents, a thief, a murderer and a common criminal.

Ahead of the 1997 Election, KANU made a big concession formalising the role of political parties in public life. It was the beginning of the distribution of the political spoils that set the stage for KANU's distinguished exit from power.

After the 1998 terrorist bombing, President Moi and the leaders of the main political parties traveled together to the site of the horrendous attack. That image spoke a thousand words.

Moi was quite disagreeable, but kept a mostly pragmatic approach that has ensured him a lengthy peaceful retirement guaranteed by people he once lampooned in public. After his peaceful handover of power in 2002, it is impossible to build consensus to prosecute Mr. Moi for any misdeeds.

Charles Obbo's thoughtful article on Museveni's infallibility is a good start; it is always good to be open minded about these things. It is time for the opposition to put their big ideas on the agenda

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 July 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberian president Sirleaf red-faced over office fire**

MONROVIA, July 28, 2006 (AFP) - Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said Friday she felt embarrassed by the fire that gutted her office this week as she hosted three African heads of state during the country's Independence Day celebrations. "I have to be a little embarrassed because I had three presidents with me, and we were preparing to go sit down and have our lunch to continue our dialogue, and that (was) interrupted," she told reporters.

#### **LEBANON-LIBERIA: Lebanon Diary, part IV**

BEIRUT, 28 Jul 2006 (IRIN) - Saide Chaar and 22 other Liberians and Lebanese-Liberians had been seeking shelter in a one-bedroom apartment in southwestern Beirut for 15 days until they were evicted on Friday. The landlord said there were too many people in the apartment. Chaar, 25, is among about 50 Liberians who are trapped in Beirut. Many sought refuge in Lebanon after fleeing civil war in their own country 12 years ago. They have watched thousands of other foreigners being evacuated but find they have fallen through the cracks, as Liberia has no embassy in Lebanon to evacuate them.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Ivory Coast leader seeks opposition support over ID scheme**

ABIDJAN, July 28, 2006 (AFP) - Rival senior politicians in Ivory Coast met Friday to discuss the controversial pre-election UN-backed identification scheme, as one of the country's top officials called for the exercise to be suspended until transparency was guaranteed. Former prime minister and leader of President Laurent Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) Pascal Affi N'Guessan met Henri Konan Bedie, former head of state and now opposition leader.

**BBC Monitoring Africa** 28 July 2006

#### **Ghana hosts sub-regional political parties' conference**

Text of report by Ghanaian GBC radio on 28 July

The first regional conference of political parties in West Africa has opened in Accra. Representatives of eight parties are discussing ways to build and sustain multi-party democracy, good governance and economic growth. They are from Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Mali. Opening the conference, the vice-president Alhaji Aliu Mahama, said lack of internal democracy and the hijack of formal decision making by invisible financiers are the bane of most political parties in the sub-region. Lack of ideology or political philosophy is also a serious shortcoming of the parties.

## **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

### **Government Calls on American to Investigate Fire Incident**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday announced that the Liberian Government has engaged the services of an American fire expert to investigate the fire incident at the Executive Mansion. She added that she could not administer the affairs of the State at the Mansion due to severe damage sustained.
- Addressing journalists after a cabinet meeting yesterday, President Johnson-Sirleaf said that all employees of the Presidency including the Minister of State would be probed. She noted that diplomatic missions in the country had presented her a statement of support following the incident.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Circuit Court Judge Suspended on President's Directive**

- In a letter of suspension to Resident Circuit Court Judge James Zota recently, Chief Justice Johnny Lewis said that Judge Zota's suspension was based on the directive of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf after a complaint had been filed against him by Stipendiary Magistrate Milton Taylor. Chief Justice Lewis said that he had transferred the case to the Judicial Inquiry Commission for investigation.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Judge Grants Rapist Bail but Solicitor-General Takes Exception**

- In his ruling yesterday, Monrovia Magisterial Court Judge Milton Taylor granted a bail to Ahmed Jundi, a Lebanese national for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl early this month. He said that the pieces of evidence provided were doubtful. However, Judge Taylor jailed suspect Jundi until he files a US\$500,000 property valuation bond.
- Liberia's Solicitor-General, Tiawon Gongloe said that granting of the bail was a procedural error on the part of Judge Taylor, contending that the Magistrate had no right to grant bail in a capital offense like rape.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Former Rebel Leader Supports War Crimes Court for Liberia**

- Mr. Boye Bleju-Boye, spokesman of the disbanded rebel Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), said that he supports calls for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia. In an interview yesterday, Mr. Bleju-Boye said that such a court would bring perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Pro-Justice Group Calls on Government to Probe Corrupt Officials**

- A pro-justice group, the Liberia Justice Project, yesterday called on the Government of Liberia to prosecute former public officials accused of economic crimes.
- The group urged President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to sack the officials who were accused of wrongdoings in the ECOWAS audit report but are serving in the current government. The group also requested the President to withdraw the nomination of former National Transitional Government of Liberia Vice Chairman, Wesley Momo Johnson as Ambassador to the United Kingdom in order to exonerate himself from the allegation of misappropriation levied against him by the ECOWAS report.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahji@un.org](mailto:armahji@un.org).*



United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 July 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

07/28/2006 04:08:51

#### **Firestone Natural Rubber to Deliver Relief Materials to Liberia; New Donation**

INDIANAPOLIS, Jul 27, 2006 (U.S. Newswire via COMTEX) --Firestone Natural Rubber Company continues its longstanding partnership with Liberia as both the company and the government rebuild in the war-torn country in West Africa. As part of its commitment to Liberia, Firestone will now transport humanitarian materials from charitable organizations to Liberia.

07/28/2006 04:04:41

#### **One New Light in Liberia, Inching Back from an Abyss**

New York Times Full Feed via NewsEdge Corporation : The way Karpeh Toe runs his snack stand, much of the 20th century might as well never have happened. He sells soft drinks on the side of the road from a lean-to shack, but he does not own a fridge. Instead, he keeps the bottles cold with blocks of ice he buys every morning for about 50 cents and hauls to his shop in a wheelbarrow.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

VOA 27 July 2006

#### **Mass Identification Plan Ploughs Ahead in Ivory Coast**

By Franz Wild, Korhogo

At least two have died in a series of violent clashes between political activists in Ivory Coast during the past week. The groups cannot agree over a national identification scheme, which is meant to pave the way for fair elections to be held later this year. From Ivory Coast, Franz Wild explores for VOA what the identification program is and what it means for ordinary Ivorians.

#### **Ivory Coast fighters trade guns for hope**

By Ange Aboa

GUIGLO, Ivory Coast, July 27 (Reuters) - Militia fighters queued up on Thursday for a long-delayed disarmament process, hoping to exchange their guns for a brighter future as farmers or seek their fortune in the economic capital Abidjan. "As soon as I get my money, I'm going to buy a cold beer and forget about all I've seen during the war, then look to invest," said Seraphin Taye, 33, one of 2,000 members of militia in the west of the country giving up guns under a peace process.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Liberian Government Probes Fire Episode at Mansion**

*(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, New Democrat, The Informer, New Liberia, The Liberian Diaspora and Public Agenda)*

- The Liberian government has begun preliminary investigations to establish the cause and origin of Wednesday's fire episode which damaged the second, third and fourth floors of the Executive Mansion on Independence Day. The extent of the damage is unknown, but it is believed to be extensive. No arrests have been announced as the Executive Mansion has been quarantined to facilitate the work of the investigators.

### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Fêtés Children Despite Fire Disaster**

*(Daily Observer, Heritage, New Democrat and The Informer)*

- Scores of children turned out at the Capitol Building on Thursday to participate in an Independence Day children's party called in their honor by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The party was held despite a fire disaster which engulfed the Executive Mansion on Wednesday.

### **Japan Poised to Reactivate Projects in Liberia**

*(The News and Analyst)*

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday announced that the Japanese government has indicated its willingness to reactivate all projects it funded in Liberia prior to the country's civil war.

### **Firestone Promises to Deliver Relief Materials to Liberia**

*(The Informer)*

- Firestone Natural Rubber Company has promised to work with aid organizations to ship relief items to Liberia in continuation of its longstanding partnership with Liberia. "As part of its commitment to Liberia, Firestone will now transport humanitarian materials from charitable organizations to Liberia", a release said.

## **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

### **Government Commences Probe into Fire Episode**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Japan to Reactivate Pre-War Development Projects in Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Lawmakers Postpone Recess to Debate National Concerns and Budget**

- Members of the House of Representatives yesterday unanimously voted to postpone by one month their annual vacation which starts 31, July every year. The Lawmakers said that the postponement would enable them to debate the draft budget for fiscal year 2006/2007 and to discuss other issues of national concerns.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Police Authorities Send Corrupt Officers for Prosecution**

- A Liberian National Police (LNP) press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said that the LNP had transferred to the Justice Ministry a corruption scandal in which Deputy Police Inspector for Administration Col. Alfred Karley is accused of squandering gasoline valued at US\$2,495. The statement added that police investigators also retrieved US\$4,000 from Col. Karley during preliminary probes.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

**Police Chief Names New Head of Women and Children Protection**

- Liberian National Police Inspector-General Munnah Sieh yesterday announced the appointment of Ms. Goll Weah as head of the LNP's Women and Children Protection Section, replacing Asatu Bah-Kenneth who acted in the capacity. The appointee headed the Section's Women Unit prior to her new job. The Women and Children Protection Section was set up to look into abuses against women and children in Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

**Court Bailiff Expelled for Talking with Defendants**

- A Bailiff at the Criminal Court 'C' in Monrovia was yesterday expelled from the dormitory of the jurors who are currently hearing a case of economic sabotage.
- The court's Judge, Blamo Dixon, ordered Bailiff Marcia Johnson's removal after she had been caught talking with one of the co-defendants in the case. Ms. Johnson admitted talking with one of the co-defendants but denied receiving any money.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

## Special Court Supplement

Saturday's Security Evacuation Exercise, in Photos



Staff members await evacuation at YSC.



Peacekeepers secure the convoy as it arrives at YSC.



The convoy prepares to move.



Peacekeepers guard convoy as it leaves YSC.



The convoy moves down Wilkinson Road...



...by Sir Samuel Lewis (Aberdeen Ferry) Road...



...and over the Aberdeen Bridge.



The convoy arrives at the UNIOSIL helipad.



Staff members register at the Mammy Yoko.



Sierra Leone Police secure the area.



Peacekeepers stand guard...



...as Chief of Security Joe Poraj briefs participants after the exercise.