

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



Members of a community youth band pose for a photo in Kingtom.

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:

Friday, 4 August 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Democrat
Friday, 4 August 2006

Prosecution Concludes Case In RUF Trial

The Prosecution yesterday concluded its case in the trial of three former members of the Revolutionary United Front - Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao.

The three accused each face an 18-count indictment for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and

other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Since the beginning of the trial on 5 July 2004, the Court has heard from

the Prosecution 86 witnesses over 183 trial days. Following a discussion on the admissibility of certain documents, Senior Trial Attorney Peter Harrison told the Court that the Prosecution has no further witnesses to call

and was closing its case. Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon were indicted in March 2003 and Augustine Gbao the following month. Indictments against two other accused former RUF leaders, Foday Sankoh

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Prosecution Concludes Case

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and Sam Bockarie, were withdrawn by the Prosecutor in December 2003 due to the deaths of the two men. Oral arguments on Motions for Judgment of Acquittal are scheduled to take place on 16 October.

This is the third of the ongoing trials in which the Prosecution has closed its case. The other two trials are currently hearing witnesses for the Defence. The case of the Prosecutor vs Charles Taylor is currently in the pre-trial phase.

Concord Times
Friday, 4 August 2006

2007 elections in the rains

*Story:
Sahr
Musa
Yamba*

to announce today that the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections will be held on 28 July 2007 in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution."

The President however quickly warned, "but I must hasten to state that the declaration of this date does not mean the start of political campaign activities. The Electoral Commission will determine the start of campaigning."

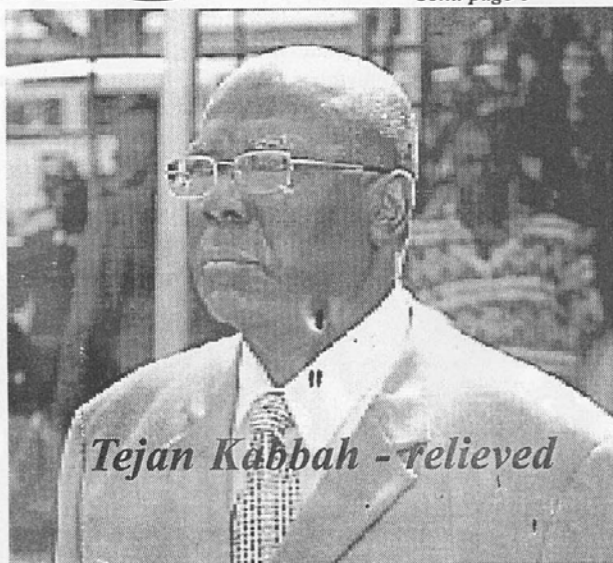
President Kabbah reminded Sierra Leoneans that his term of office would come to an end next year. He said it would become necessary to hold elections sometime next year to elect the

Cont. page 5

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah Thursday broke tradition to announce the date for the much talked about 2007 elections. It is to be held in late July, during the rainy season.

In his announcement the President said it is his constitutional responsibility to dissolve Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution in order to pave the way for the holding of the elections.

Declared the President: "It has been customary to announce the date of the elections on the occasion of the dissolution of Parliament. However, after due consultations with the National Electoral Commission, I am pleased



Tejan Kabbah - relieved

2007 elections in the rains

From page 1

next President.

The President referred to the constitution, which stipulates that a "general election of the members of Parliament shall be held within three months after the dissolution of Parliament. In the case of the election of the President the election is to be held during the period of three months beginning with the date when the office of President becomes vacant."

Warned the President: "With this announcement I hope all the speculations and rumours surrounding the date for the holding of the elections will now be laid to rest. We can now prepare ourselves to ensure that the elections themselves will be conducted in a peaceful and conducive democratic environment.

"The decision to announce the date almost one year before the conduct of the election itself is a further demonstration of my government's continuing commitment to pursuing the path of

good governance and of promoting the democratic electoral process."

President Kabbah continued that we have every reason to be confident because our past performance in the electoral process has been commendable. "We have successfully conducted three sets of elections; Parliamentary and Presidential elections in 1996, and 2002, and also local council elections in 2004 and over seventy paramount chieftaincy elections from 2003 to now. All these elections, which have been judged as free and fair marked a significant milestone in advancing participatory democracy and in consolidating the peace process."

The President recounted that his government has established and reinforced independent political institutions vital for the effective practice of democracy. "This can be seen in the establishment of the Political Parties Registration Commission and the restructuring of the National Electoral

Commission. Both Commissions are currently engaged in developing procedures for the smooth conduct of the elections," he maintained.

President Kabbah assured that the Political Parties Registration Commission is in the process of preparing a code of conduct, which will govern the conduct of all political parties, party members, candidates and their supporters before and during the elections. He said the code would require all political parties, members, supporters and candidates to comply strictly with rules and regulations that will ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

The President alluded that he has also been briefed that the National Electoral Commission is developing topics to encourage candidates to focus on during their campaigns only on national developmental issues and issues which will promote national cohesion.

"This will help create a healthy

campaign environment for the discussion of subjects relevant to our national development. It will also compel parties to present only clear and coherent policies or programmes to the voters. In this way voters will have the opportunity to choose candidates according to the respective party programmes or policies presented to them."

The President appealed to all Sierra Leoneans to see the forthcoming elections not as warfare between warlords but purely as a friendly contest.

Reactions from opposition political parties about the election date have been mixed. Victor Bockarie Foh of the opposition All Peoples Congress told Concord Times late Thursday, "I wish it were even earlier so that we can see the back of this non-performing government. Though it is in the rainy season, so be it. Whether they take us to the tsunami season we are prepared for it."

Meanwhile, Raymond Bamidele Thompson, Chairman of Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) Media committee heard the news from Concord Times when contacted late Thursday. "That is news to me. But my initial reaction is that the date is in the rainy season and a lot of people will not be enthusiastic to come under the rains to vote. I would have preferred a date in the dry season because you are aware that during the rainy season some roads are terrible and almost impassable. PMDC is ready for an election any even tomorrow, but our concern is that we want the voting public to come in their numbers. I hope the President would have considered that." The PMDC mouthpiece also raised concerns about the period of campaigning, which he said, is definitely going to be in the rainy season and will not be "conducive" for campaigning.

Awoko

Friday, 4 August 2006

Kabbah to vote for Berewa in 258 days

Speculation as to when next year's elections would be held finally became a dead horse yesterday when President Kabbah in a broadcast to the nation revealed that he would be voting for his successor, Vice President Solomon Berewa, in 258 days from today.

He however stated that, "I must hasten to state that the declaration of this date does not

mean the start of political campaign activities," as the Electoral Commission will determine the start of campaigning.

President Kabbah also noted that, "with this announcement I hope all the speculations and rumours surrounding the date for the holding of the elections will now be laid to rest. We can now prepare ourselves to ensure that the elections themselves will be conducted in a peaceful

and inclusive democratic environment."

The decision to announce the date almost one year before the conduct of the election itself was a further demonstration of his government's continuing commitment to pursuing the path of good governance and of promoting the democratic electoral process, he stated.

The broadcast further indicated that, "we have every reason to be confident because our past

performance in the electoral process has been commendable. We have successfully conducted three sets of elections: Parliamentary and Presidential elections in 1996 and 2002, and also Local Council elections in 2004 and over seventy Paramount chieftaincy elections from 2003 to now. All these elections which have been judged as free and fair marked a significant milestone in advancing participatory democracy and in consolidating the peace process".

President Kabbah also stated that, "the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) is in the process of preparing a code of conduct which will govern the conduct of all

political parties, party members, candidates and their supporters before and during the elections".

The code, he disclosed, would require all political parties, members, supporters and candidates to comply strictly with rules and regulations that would ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

President Kabbah further maintained that he had been briefed that the National Electoral Commission was developing topics to encourage candidates to focus during their campaigns only on national developmental issues and issues which would promote national cohesion.

This, he said, would help create a healthy campaign environment for the discussion of subjects relevant to our national development, as it would also

compel parties to present only clear and coherent policies or programmes to the voters.

The Head of State stated that "in this way voters will have the opportunity to choose candidates according to the respective party programmes or policies presented to them, while giving the assurance that, "we are determined to maintain a safe and secure environment in which free and fair elections can be held and our political differences can be resolved through dialogue".

In this regard, he emphasised that, "I would like to appeal to all Sierra Leoneans as I have always done to see the forthcoming elections not as warfare between warlords but purely as a friendly contest."

Standard Times
Friday, 4 August 2006

Kabbah announces Elections Date

...July 28, 2007



President Kabbah

The President of Sierra Leone Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has declared July 28 2007 as the date for both Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The release put to rest speculations related to the election date. Before now it was indicated by the speaker of parliament Justice Edmund Cowan that the life span of the present parliament ends in June of next year. Behind the background it was accepted that a grace period of three months will be given as the campaign period for all political parties to make their presence felt by the electorates. However, with this announced date, political parties have about a month to campaign.

The issue of election date has been a topical debate after the visit to Sierra Leone, of the United Kingdom secretary of state Hilary Benn.

New Citizen
Friday, 4 August 2006

SEARCHLIGHT

With Wysemann Dee
076-633-807



DOWNBELOW: SIR ALBERT CONVERSES WITH MARAH & TEACHER LAGAWO—EPISODE 9 / PART 1

Sir Albert again asked, "what were the Ogoni people agitation for?"

Teacher Lagawo answered, "Sir Albert, you are quite aware of the fact that Ogoni State, in Southeastern Nigeria, is an oil rich area and the source of the major chunk of Nigeria's wealth. As a result of the oil wealth and remoteness of the area, the Ogoni people demanded from the federal government certain privileges and protection."

Sir Albert asked, "such as what?" Teacher Lagawo replied, "well, the exploration and exploitation of the oil in Ogoni land caused severe environmental and health hazards for the inhabitants of that State and therefore, the Ogoni people demanded protection from the harsh pollution caused as a result of the oil exploration. The Ogoni people also demanded from the federal government a good percentage of the proceeds from

nies extracting oil in the State should contribute towards the infrastructural, health and educational development of their land."

Sir Albert again asked, "did the Nigerian government consider these demands too excessive?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "yes, the government was apprehensive that by making such demands, the Ogoni leaders would subtly invite another civil war."

Sir Albert murmured,



Tejan Kabbah

"hm! I think the government at the time recalled the devastating consequences of the brutal Biafra Nigerian civil war."

Teacher Lagawo observed, "Sir Albert, President Sani Abacha did not budge but stood his ground, maintaining that the resources of Nigeria belongs to all Nigerians and refused to tolerate and accept any demand for special concessions by any group of people."

Sir Albert said, "well, the Biafra war started with such demands and when the government at the time failed to meet the demands, Colonel Emeka Ojuku, the



Sani Abacha

movement, commenced his rebellion by declaring Biafra an independent entity from the Federal Republic of Nigeria. You may also recollect that the Federal Government went all out to prevent Biafra from seceding from the Federation, thanks to the mediating role of General Yakubu Gowon."

Teacher Lagawo observed, "thank you so much Sir Albert for bringing to mind the Nigerian episode that was about to arise with the demands of the Ogoni people as violent protests organized by the Ogoni people sometimes led to deaths and injuries."

Sir Albert asked, "was that the reason why the government decided to step in?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "yes, the Ogoni leaders, (Ken Saro-Wiwa and about seven others) were arrested and charged with murder and treason. They were subsequently found guilty and sentenced to death."

Sir Albert posed the question, "was this the reason why Nigeria was suspended from the membership of the Commonwealth?"



Johnny Paul
the sale of oil in addition to insisting

Salone Times

Friday, 4 August 2006

[Melron Nicol-Wilson is Defence Co-Counsel for Morris Kallon]

Fighting For Rights in Sierra Leone

Melron Nicol-Wilson's long workdays begin at 8am. As many as 40 people are often waiting outside the small office of the Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. They are refugees and war-displaced Sierra Leoneans, young victims of child abuse and the elderly, the disabled and the unemployed. Word of mouth brought them to Sierra Leone's first legal aid center dedicated to protecting the rights of the poor. LAWCLA finds many more clients in the holding cells of Freetown's overcrowded Central Prison.

The situation is so bad that remand prisoners...frequently change their pleas from 'not guilty' to 'guilty' to be removed from the remand home to the better areas of the prison.

Demand for legal representation among a poor and largely illiterate population is enormous. But needs are virtually everywhere in a country emerging from a brutal 10-year civil war and decades of misrule. Donor nations, international organizations, and the country's civil society groups have focused legal efforts-and funding-on the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which are key to providing accountability for past abuses and respect for the rule of law during Sierra Leone's transition from war to peace. LAWCLA is deeply concerned with transitional justice, but remains best known as one of the few places where the poor can turn for tangible legal help. "One cannot talk about human rights without the legal means to protect them," said Nicol-Wilson.

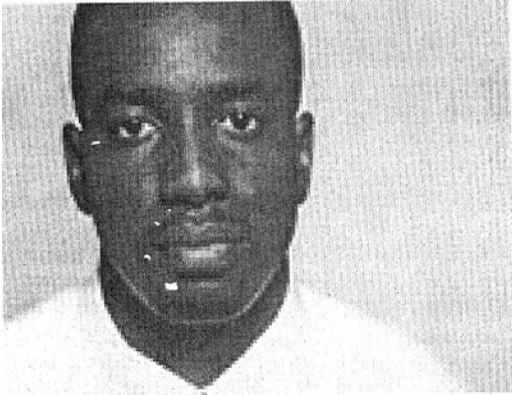
A lifelong resident of Freetown, Nicol-Wilson committed himself to human rights issues during the military junta that ruled from 1992 to 1996 as the war raged. At Fourah Bay College in Freetown, he researched his senior thesis in 1995 on how detainees were largely denied their constitutional rights.

Soon after he graduated from Sierra Leone Law School in 1997, however, disgruntled soldiers seized power from the democratically elected government and brought in rebels to share power. As an educated Sierra Leonean with a reputation for investigating human rights abuses, Nicol-Wilson was a potential target of the new regime and fled to neighboring Guinea along with tens of thousands of other Sierra Leoneans. As a refugee, he pursued a master's degree in human rights law in South Africa.

A month after Nicol-Wilson returned home in December 1998 came the war's worst attack on Freetown-what residents call "January 6," shorthand for the day when the siege began. Houses were burned to the ground. Rapes were common. Rebels hacked off the limbs of over 100 civilians. Government troops, and West African peacekeepers carried out summary executions of suspected rebels. "

After that, my colleagues and I were interested in creating a center to protect human rights through law," Nicol-Wilson said. In 2001, he quit his job as a lawyer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and established the nonprofit LAWCLA along with three other lawyers. With only a vague promise of funding from the United Nations, they set up a cramped office in a room lent to them by a law firm in Freetown's downtown, which was busy rebuilding even as charred and bullet-pocked facades of buildings were a reminder of "January 6."

"Each lawyer heads one of the four units, which



Melron Nicol-Wilson

broadly set out LAWCLA's priorities for research and advocacy-litigation, transitional justice, juvenile justice and advocacy, and gender research and advocacy.

One of their first clients was a security guard of the parastatal Sierra Leone Ports Authority who had been fired after refusing to take part in a theft orchestrated by his superiors in 1991. The client, who was unable to find work as a result of the dismissal, received \$6,000 in compensation in an out-of-court settlement. "Since that victory in April [2002] and the publicity it received in the media, we are now dealing with 25 unlawful dismissal cases

cacy. All of the lawyers provide legal aid. One of their first clients was a security guard of the parastatal Sierra Leone Ports Authority who had been fired after refusing to take part in a theft orchestrated by his superiors in 1991. The client, who was unable to find work as a result of the dismissal, received \$6,000 in compensation in an out-of-court settlement. "Since that victory in April [2002] and the publicity it received in the media, we are now dealing with 25 unlawful dismissal cases," said Nicol-Wilson. Less sensational cases are nonetheless vital in indigent clients' lives. LAWCLA protected the rights of a 16-year-old petty trader whose estranged mother threatened to force her to undergo a female secret society initiation involving genital mutilation, street children who were arrested for breaking curfew, and other youth who were sent to the Central Prison at Pademba Road instead of a juvenile detention center. LAWCLA's paralegals regularly visit overcrowded holding cells like those in Kissy Mess Mess Police Station on Freetown's east side to find poor people who have been denied a fair trial. "During the state of emergency [which ended in March 2002], people were detained 10-15 months without trial," said Nicol-Wilson.

"The public and other lawyers criticized LAWCLA for representing clients pro bono, charging it with "encouraging crime," said Nicol-Wilson. But as LAWCLA successfully defended the rights of poor Sierra Leoneans, it gained recognition in the streets and local press. So many clients were coming to the first office, which a colleague's law firm had provided free of charge, that LAWCLA was forced to move. "They thought we were undercutting their practice because we were providing services for free," he said.

In February 2002, LAWCLA moved to the office on Old Railway Line, appropriately wedged between the

justice ministry and Brookfield, which is one of Freetown's many destitute neighborhoods. The lawyers, four paralegals, and four interns share two long desks and-in between Freetown's frequent power shortages-a single computer. Initially, the lawyers themselves covered expenses.

The prison was built during colonial days to accommodate 220 inmates and now houses about 1,000 inmates.

"In 2002, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was finalizing funding for 18 months, which will enable LAWCLA to establish posts outside of Freetown. In many towns, such as the former rebel stronghold Makeni, the courts have not functioned for years-and running water and electricity had halted even before the war. LAWCLA plans to hire paralegals to work in Bo, Kenema and Makeni, three of the four principal towns after Freetown.

LAWCLA was able to cover expenses-including back

rent-at the Freetown office thanks to an emergency grant from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). Separately, OSIWA is funding a survey of all detainees and the conditions of all of Sierra Leone's prisons and police stations. "The conditions inside prisons in this country are appalling," Nicol-Wilson said. "We make frequent visits to Central Prison where prisoners die every day from malnutrition and lack of medical facilities. The prison was built during colonial days to accommodate 220 inmates and now houses about 1,000 inmates. The most congested part is the remand home, where the population of persons on trial and those awaiting trial should be presumed innocent. Yet they suffer more than those who have been found guilty. The situation is so bad that remand prisoners that we represent in court frequently change their pleas from 'not guilty' to 'guilty' to be removed from the remand home to the better areas of the prison." LAWCLA planned to produce a 30-minute documentary of prison conditions to accompany its final report on prison conditions.

Because of its work on the front lines in the struggle for rights, LAWCLA has a unique perspective on Sierra Leone's efforts to prevent future conflict by bringing to justice those responsible for the war, reconciling, and reforming the justice system and security forces. As head of the center's Transitional Justice Unit, Nicol-Wilson researches and writes on the Special Court and TRC. In September, LAWCLA was preparing recommendations on reparations for war victims. LAWCLA's greatest contribution to lasting peace in Sierra Leone will be its continued efforts to ensure that rights are afforded to all members of society. Indeed, for all the claims that diamonds fueled Sierra Leone's war, it was decades of misrule and injustice that made the country ripe for insurrection

-OSIWA.

CNSNews.com

Friday, 4 August 2006

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/viewstory.asp?Page=%5CForeignBu>

Illicit Diamond Trade Used by Hezbollah and Others

Nairobi, Kenya (CNSNews.com) - The international community should speed up efforts to prevent terrorist groups from using the proceeds from illicit diamond trade to finance their activities and launder their funds, campaigners say.

A Nairobi-based African affairs analyst, Adan Mohamed, said it was "very likely" that groups like Hezbollah still use the trade to raise additional revenue.

"Nothing much has happened in putting mechanisms in place to prevent diamond trade from being used to clean dirty cash or finance conflicts," he said.

Investigations by researchers, human rights groups, the United Nations and media organizations have revealed how Hezbollah exploited weakness in the international diamond trade monitoring systems to hide their assets and raise funds.

The illicit trade was mainly carried out in the West African nations of Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast, and further south in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The trade was allegedly facilitated in part by former Liberian President Charles Taylor, now facing war crimes charges in The Hague.

Taylor was the main sponsor of the notorious Sierra Leone rebel group the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which controlled a significant segment of the country's rich alluvial diamond mines.

The RUF waged a brutal five-year war against the Sierra Leone government in which it targeted non cooperative civilians and punished them by amputating their arms. Some RUF leaders are in the custody of the International Criminal Court.

The gems mined by RUF were shipped to Taylor's Liberia for onward transmission to Hezbollah, al-Qaeda and other illicit international buyers, according to published accounts.

The small but influential Lebanese community in West Africa, comprising mostly Shiites, was also found to be instrumental in facilitating the transfer of illicit diamonds to Hezbollah.

A 2004 report in the Middle East Intelligence Bulletin, a publication of the Middle East Forum and the U.S. Committee for a Free Lebanon, said that although the U.S. authorities had been able to reduce the flow of Hezbollah financing from networks in the U.S., "it appears that one lucrative source of Hezbollah financing is still growing: the diamond trade in West Africa."

Security information consultant group Strategic Forecasting (Stratfor) said last month that Hezbollah could finance new attacks on Israeli targets abroad using funds from a profitable "blood diamond" network in West Africa.

Another group that has in the past documented how Hezbollah and al-Qaeda have used diamonds from West Africa to finance their terrorist activities is the international NGO, Global Witness.

In a new report, the group says efforts to monitor the international movement of diamonds have not been successful and more needs to be done.

Global Witness estimates that four percent of illegal diamonds get into the international market every year. The overall global diamond trade is worth over \$60 billion and most of the retail sales are in the United States.

A project known as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was started in 2003 to monitor international diamond movement, in a bid to prevent the gems from being used to fund conflicts and fuel human rights abuses. Seventy countries have agreed to implement the plan so far.

Pamela Wexler, an attorney who authored the new report, said that although there was much to praise about the KPCS inaugural phase, it had not yet evolved into a fully credible check on the international movement of diamonds.

"Foremost are gaps in oversight, specifically of internal control systems in individual countries and of the peer review monitoring system overall."

Another key weakness was inadequate checks on private industry by individual governments.

The KPCS requires governments to implement import/export control regimes and to adopt systems to oversee their private sectors, and so keep a documentary record of rough diamonds as they travel from the mine to their polished state.

Diamonds must be shipped in sealed containers and export agencies must certify that parcels are free from "conflict diamonds."

Members also agree to prohibit entry of uncut stones arriving unsealed or without proper certification.

BBC Online

Friday, 4 August 2006

LRA leaders decline talks offer

The Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel movement has said it will not send its most senior leaders to peace talks with the government.

Sudanese mediator Riek Machar had asked for the group's top leaders to take part after earlier peace talks failed.

But LRA deputy leader Vincent Otti told the BBC he would not attend talks in the southern Sudanese town of Juba.

Hopes of an end to the 20-year LRA insurgency were raised on Tuesday when LRA leader Joseph Kony met mediators.

The talks in Juba had been planned for Monday.

But Mr Otti told the BBC that Juba was not safe because an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant for the LRA leaders' arrest was still in force and Ugandan government forces were present in the town.

Meeting

On Tuesday, Mr Kony held his first formal meeting with Mr Machar and a Ugandan official in a forest clearing on the border between Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This was hailed as a significant move, since the failure of earlier talks had been attributed in part to the negotiators not being sufficiently high-ranking to strike a deal.

The Ugandan government said at Tuesday's meeting that it would consider the ceasefire offer by the LRA leader, though it also expressed caution.

"It should only be a final peace deal that is signed. The government has shown a lot of goodwill so far, so they (the LRA) should trust us and take us seriously," government spokesman Robert Kabushenga told Reuters news agency.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has offered the rebels a full and guaranteed amnesty and protection as long as they renounce violence.

Thousands of civilians have died in the 20-year conflict and more than one million have been forced to flee their homes.



Otti said Juba was not safe for the LRA leadership



LRA leader Joseph Kony met mediators this week

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Nigerian troops return from UN mission in Liberia

LAGOS, Aug 3, 2006 (AFP) - Some 100 Nigerian soldiers serving with the United Nations Peace Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have returned home, a Nigerian army spokesman said Thursday. "The 98 men and officers were received at the Mutada International Airport in Lagos yesterday (Wednesday)," the spokesman told AFP. He said Nigeria was happy with the performance of the troops "as good ambassadors of the country after six months of a peacekeeping assignment in Liberia."

International Clips on West Africa

New guidelines to help push forward Ivorian election program

ABIDJAN, Aug 3, 2006 (AFP) - The transitional government in Ivory Coast has drawn up special guidelines for a contentious pre-election voter identification scheme aimed at preventing disputes, it announced Thursday. This guide "should make it possible" to carry out voter identification "within the legal framework ... so as to avoid any possible dispute," said a statement following a cabinet meeting held Wednesday. The exercise aims to update voter rolls through the identification of some 3.5 million undocumented Ivorians among the country's 16 million inhabitants ahead of elections to be held by the end of October.

BBC 3 August 2006

Sierra Leone: Rights group consoles Lebanese, Syrians over war

The Coalition for Justice and Accountability [COJA] in **Sierra Leone**, has issued a press release consoling Lebanese and Syrian nationals in **Sierra Leone** after it joined other human rights organizations globally in their action to call on both Hezbollah and Israeli governments to immediately halt the ongoing military assaults against innocent civilians life.

Local Media – Newspapers

House Makes Amendments to Draft National Budget

(Daily Observer, The Analyst, The Informer and The Monitor)

- The House of Representatives resolved in a special session yesterday to include in the national budget revenue from public corporations, including the Liberia Petroleum

Refining Company. The lawmakers agreed that such monies should be used to upgrade the allotments made for education and health.

Unity Party to Produce Presidential Guards

(Daily Observer and The Inquirer)

- Addressing Unity Party (UP) partisans in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that she was considering the recruitment and training of several UP youths to serve as presidential guards. The President said that she would feel better protected by her own partisans, blaming the inefficiencies in government on non-UP members who she said had failed to live up to the required spirit of "inclusiveness."

UN Renews Travel Ban on House Speaker and Other Lawmakers

(The News and New Vision)

- The UN Security Council recently updated its travel ban list on Liberia, which includes House Speaker Edwin Snowe, Grand Gedeh County Representative, Kai Farley, and Senators Jewel Howard Taylor and Adolphus Dolo. Former Speaker George Dweh also remains under the travel ban. The Security Council lay emphasis on the activities of Representative Farley, a former militia commander, who according to the Security Council continues to engage in activities which pose a threat to peace and security in the sub-region.

TRC Recruits Statement Takers Nationwide

(The Inquirer, The Informer and Liberian Express)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) yesterday launched a recruitment drive for statement takers of testimonies across Liberia. The TRC is basically administering an aptitude test to over 200 applicants.

Twenty-Three Liberians Deported From U.S.

(The News and Liberian Express)

- Twenty-three Liberians deported from the U.S. for violations, including possession of narcotics, domestic violence and illegal stay were expected to arrive yesterday. The deportees were on 22 July escorted to the Baltimore Washington International Airport by the First Secretary and Consul of the Liberian Embassy in Washington, Christopher Nippae, and representatives of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency.

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

Lawmakers Make Changes to Draft National Fiscal Budget

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Says Ruling Party is Committed to Principles of Inclusion in Government

- Addressing partisans of the ruling Unity Party (UP) in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that the UP was committed to the principles of inclusion, but was keen on commitment, dedication and loyalty as key requirements.
- The President emphasized that government lacked the capacity to employ all members of the Party but assured them that the government would create jobs for qualified partisans.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Lawmakers Show Solidarity with President for Fire Incident

- Members of the Senate met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday in Monrovia to pledge the Senate's solidarity to the Executive Branch in the wake of the fire incident of July 26. Senate President Pro Tempore, Grand Gedeh County Senator, Isaac Nyenabo said that the meeting was to foster cooperation between the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government. President Johnson-Sirleaf assured the Senators that the appropriate actions would be taken following investigation of the fire incident.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Human Rights Defenders want former Presidential Affairs Minister Arrested

- The Coalition of Human Rights Defenders has called for the immediate arrest of former State for Presidential Affairs Minister Morris Dukuly in order to explain how the fire that started from his office gutted the Office of the President of Liberia at the Executive Mansion. The group's Chairman, Cllr. Dempster Brown, told a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, that loud explosions were allegedly heard prior to the fire. He added that under the law, Mr. Dukuly should be held as a prime suspect for the incident because he had met with former rebel leader Sekou Damate-Conneh at the Executive Mansion.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Water and Sewer Poised to Redesign Water Network

- The Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation assured the public that water pipelines leakages around Monrovia would be repaired with assistance from the World Bank.
- Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, the Corporation's Managing Director, Hun-Bu Tulay said that the affected communities included Monrovia's suburbs of New Kru Town, Clara Town, West Point and Soni Wein.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Criminal Court Halts Rape Case Hearing at Monrovia City Court

- The Criminal Court-B in Monrovia yesterday ordered Monrovia City Court Judge Milton Taylor to cease further hearing of a rape case involving Lebanese national, Ahmed Jundi. Criminal Court Judge Yusuf Kabah also ordered Magistrate Taylor to appear in court next week to justify why he admitted the alleged rapist to bail.
- State prosecutors had filed a complaint protesting Magistrate Taylor's decision to admit the suspect to bail when Magisterial Courts lack the legal right to grant bails in capital offences.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNICEF Urges Liberian Government to Enact Law Supporting Breastfeeding

- Addressing an UNMIL pressing conference in Monrovia yesterday, UNICEF/Liberia Nutrition Officer Henrietta Howard called on the Government of Liberia to enact into law, the International Code on Breastfeeding. The Code protects and promotes breastfeeding by prohibiting advertising and marketing of breastfeeding substitutes.

Murder Suspect Attributes Act to Work of "Devil"

- Mr. Bestman Wleh, a 35-year-old suspected murderer of his friend Christian Dweh said that the act was a work of the devil. Mr. Bestman said he had gone to stop the deceased from beating his daughter for sleeping out during Liberia's Independence Day, when a fist-fight ensued between them. Bestman told journalists that the act was not intentional and begged the Dweh-family and the State for forgiveness.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Special Court Supplement

History of Sierra Leone – Isaac Wallace Johnson



This statue of Isaac Theophilous Akuna Wallace-Johnson stands in front of the shell of the Freetown Town Council building, burned during the January 1999 attack on Freetown, on the street bearing his name.

The biography below is from the book “Sierra Leonean Heroes - Fifty Great Men and Women Who Helped to Build Our Nation”.

ISAAC THEOPHILUS AKUNA WALLACE-JOHNSON (1894-1965) TRADE UNIONIST AND NATIONALIST LEADER

I. T. A. Wallace-Johnson led the first mass movement of Sierra Leoneans from all walks of life, working untiringly for unity and the rights of the common man.

He was born into a poor Krio family in Wilberforce Village and attended mission schools. At the age of eighteen, he entered government service as a customs clerk, but was soon dismissed for helping to organise the first trade union in Sierra Leone. After serving as a clerk in the Carrier Corps, he joined the merchant marine as a common sailor, later editing a newspaper in London dedicated to promoting the welfare of seamen. In 1931, Wallace-Johnson founded the first labour union in Nigeria, and in 1936 he was jailed in the Gold Coast (Ghana) for publishing a scathing attack on colonialism.

He returned to Sierra Leone in 1938 and, within a year, had organised eight labour unions, a newspaper, and a mass political movement that swept aside all opposition in the city council elections. His West African Youth League was dedicated to greater popular representation in government, an expanded civic role for women, improved salaries and conditions for workers, and national unity among all Sierra Leoneans. Wallace-Johnson taunted the colonial authorities by making public certain secret documents showing the governor's agreement to painfully lower salaries for working people. British officials tried to prosecute Wallace-Johnson, but no local jury would convict him, and at one point, eighteen of Freetown's twenty-one lawyers were members of his Youth League. Moreover, Wallace-Johnson was personally popular — a likeable man with an excellent sense of humour, who once told a group of workers, "I am not anything above you; I am at par with you."



But the colonial authorities finally jailed Wallace-Johnson in 1939 under an Emergency Act adopted at the outset of World War II. He was ultimately exiled to Sherbro Island, where he spent most of his time teaching the local people how to read and write. Wallace-Johnson lived to become one of Sierra Leone's delegates to the London Independence Talks in 1960. He will long be remembered as an ardent patriot and a true man of the people.