

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



A "Number 10" diamond, the size of a grain of sand.

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:

Monday, 4 August 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone

August Newsletter

The Special Court for Sierra Leone



Vol. VI – Special Court Monthly Newsletter – August 2008

RUF Trial

Final arguments in the trial of The Prosecutor vs. Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao are taking place on 4-5 August in Freetown. The three former Revolutionary United Front leaders each face an 18-count indictment alleging war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Trial Chamber is working towards a Judgment in the case in October.

The RUF trial is the last of three trials in Freetown. The trial of three former leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and the trial of two former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces, are complete, including appeals.

Taylor Trial

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has recessed in The Hague after hearing testimony from 35 Prosecution witnesses. The trial is scheduled to resume on 18 August.

Annual Report

The Fifth *Annual Report of the President of the Special Court* covering the period June 2007 to May 2008 has been released. The report may also be viewed in electronic form and is available on the Special Court's website, <http://www.sc-sl.org>.

Outreach in Bo

Judge Ines Weinberg de Roca of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) made a working visit to the Special Court in July, and received briefings from Court officials on the progress and work of the Special Court. She ended her visit by accompanying a Joint Prosecution-Defence Outreach to Sierra Leone's second-largest city of Bo. At a community town hall meeting, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp and Claire Carleton-Hanciles of the Defence Office interacted with members of the public and answered questions put by a crowd which included former Civil Defence Forces (CDF) combatants. Later, the Court officials also met with soldiers from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Third Brigade headquarters at Gondama, about 10 km. from Bo, and updated them on the work of the Special Court.

Concord Times
Monday, 4 August 2008

Final arguments for RUF today

By Bhooy Jalloh

Final arguments in the Special Court trial of the prosecutor versus Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao would commence today August 4, 2008 at the Trial Chamber I in Freetown.

The Revolutionary

United Front (RUF) Meanwhile, the trial is the last of three trials taking place in Freetown after witness testimony in the case concluded on June 24, 2008 followed by final briefs on July 29 ahead of today's oral arguments. A judgment is expected in October or later this year.

indictees each face an 18 count indictment for crimes against humanity, violations of Article 3 Common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Concord Times
Monday, 4 August 2008

Koroma forced to beg women, children

By Bhooy Jalloh

President Ernest Bai Koroma has said he would apologise to women and children for the horrible experiences they went through during the 11-year-long civil war.

Koroma was responding to recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report presented by the human rights commission at State House in Freetown when he noted that finances were the biggest challenges.

"We will try and make the apology at the appropriate time," he maintained and added, "It is incumbent on government to make sure that the recommendations of the

TRC are adhered to."

He noted that the report, titled "The State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone," has not been popularised, but that he would "ensure that it is popularised so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated."



Awoko

Monday, 4 August 2008

Child rights destroying our children – PC exclaims

The Kailahun district Paramount Chief Member of Parliament, Mohamed Kailondo Sama Banya has disclosed that the fate of hundreds of children in the district hangs in the balance unless “immediate action” is taken. Addressing colleague Paramount Chiefs from Kenema, Kono and Kailahun districts during a Regional consultative meeting in Kenema, he said the children “are heading for hell” because of the way messages of human rights were being delivered to his subjects. This, he went

on, had created a wedge between parents and children.

He explained that several children were now living on the street in his chiefdom of Luawa because their parents had abandoned them because of the child rights preached to them. He said the children were no longer listening to their parents or taking instructions from them and had even abandoned schooling.

“If you visit the streets of Kailahun town at night you will see these children

roaming around the Court Barray and they remain there for the whole night”, the PC said. He said some of the children sleep on stalls and in the court Barray. He said he had encouraged parents to tend to their children but that the parents had always brought up the issue of child rights and poverty. PC Kailondo appealed to government and humanitarian organisations to immediately intervene “to save Sierra Leone from collapsing again”. He urged the Human Rights Commission to pay frequent visits to his district and “preach the right messages” to the children and parents and if possible form human rights clubs in schools to help them do this.

Awoko

Monday, 4 August 2008

Police in Sierra Leone adopt UN guidelines to fight gender-based violence

-- Police in Sierra Leone have adopted new policy guidelines drafted by the United Nations to fight violence against women and girls in the west African country.

The guidelines were drafted after the police requested training for its officers on preventing gender-based violence, the UN said in a statement on its website Monday.

The guidelines, drafted by the conduct and discipline office, the gender adviser and the UN Police section of the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), are the first of their kind in the region.

The training is expected to enhance the capacity of Sierra Leone's police to address incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, physical assault and cruelty to children.

This week, UNIOSIL is also conducting workshops for managers, officers and other personnel in Sierra Leone's police force.

Cocorioko website

Monday, 4 August 2008

Govt. hailed for implementing some of the TRC Recommendations

Written by Joseph Kamanda

The Chairperson the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), Jamesina King, last Friday 1st August 2008 registered her organization's appreciation to President Ernest Bai Koroma's administration for the implementation of Recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

She gave the accolade to the new government during the presentation to President Ernest Koroma of the Final Report on the recent consultative conference held on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the TRC Report, and the prevailing conditions on the status of the implementation.

Mrs. King said that the HRCSL was well aware that government had implemented some of the recommendations of the TRC Report, though he noted that some have not been linked to the report and a good number of them are yet to be implemented.

The implementation of the TRC Report recommendations, she disclosed, will not only give credit to the TRC but will also achieve three of the five objectives for which it was established: i.e. "to respond to the needs of the victims"promote healing and reconciliation" and "to prevent a repetition of the violation and abuses suffered".

King said the implementation of the suggestions put forward to government by the TRC Report will also promote compromise between victims and perpetrators of the conflict and contribute to peace consolidation and development.

These recommendations, she maintained, were generally established to uphold rights and value that strictly fall within obligation. She respectfully implored President Koroma to take part in the implementation of the of recommendations made by the TRC Report.

She drew the President's attention to paragraph 317, Vol. 2 Chapter 3 at Page 167 of the TRC Report which states that as "Father of the Nation and as Head of State, the President should acknowledge the harm suffered by women and girls during the conflict in Sierra Leone and offer an unequivocal apology to them on behalf of government and preceding government in Sierra Leone".

These, the HRCSL chairperson continued, will obviously display President Koroma's dedication to the implementation recommendations of the TRC Report to the letter.

In response, President Koroma observed that the Report is an earlier work done by the TRC and he urged the commission to popularize it so that the people will know what is in the document and learn from the odd past and prevent it from repeating.

Dr. Koroma pledged to set up a follow-up committee to monitor the report and support the National Commission for Social Action for the hasty implementation of the reparation aspect of the recommendation of the TRC Report.

The President declared that the apology will be made to women and girls at a very appropriate time saying "we must be able to learn from the mistake of the past and talk to the international community to work together with us as a team for the successful implementation of the recommendation of the TRC Report".

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 1 August 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Lower House Passes 2008/2009 National Budget

(Heritage, The News, Daily Observer, The Informer, New Liberia)

- The media reports that the House of Representatives on Thursday approved the 2008/2009 National Fiscal Budget with an additional US\$21 million. The initial budget of US\$276 million was increased to US\$297 million.
- In an interview, the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways, Means and Finance, Representative Emmanuel Nuquay said the increase was due to the discovery of additional resources. Representative Nuquay said the budget is now constituency sensitive as more money in the tune of three million was allotted for county development.
- The News newspaper quoting the House Committee on Ways, Means and Finance said collection from the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) fiscal year 2007-2008 contribution to the budget is US\$1,100,000 while Mittal advanced collection for fiscal 2008-2009 contribution is US\$3 million.
- The approval follows several weeks of public scrutiny. It now goes to the Senate for concurrence.

President Sirleaf, others to appear before Liberia's Truth Commission next Week

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Analyst)

- Following the holding of individuals and thematic hearings in the counties and the Diaspora, the TRC will next Monday commence Thematic and Institutional Hearings as part of its inquiry process. The hearings will open on Monday, 4th August 2008, with former State Councilman Oscar J. Quiah, prominent politician Dr. Togbah Nah Tipoteh, former Chief Justice Cllr Chea Cheapoo, Deputy Planning Minister Marcus Dahn and Grand Kru County Senator Blamo Nelson addressing the forum.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will Tuesday address the hearings followed by National Security Advisor Dr. H. Boima Fahnbulleh, former Police Director Wilfred Clarke, among others. Under the theme: "Understanding The Conflict Through Its Principal Events And Actors."
- The thematic hearings on the contemporary history of the conflict are aimed at gaining, through the perspectives of actors and experts, insights into the root causes and the military and political dimensions of the conflict, including most precipitous events between 1979 and 2003, and the national and external actors that shaped those events.

Senators Seeking Removal of President Pro-Tempore Remain Resolute

(Heritage, The Parrot, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, New Vision)

- Senators seeking the removal of the President Pro-tempore, Isaac Nyenabo say they are resolved in their campaign to oust him. Speaking to reporters, two of the Senators in favour of his removal, Lahai Lasanna and Daniel Naatehn said it was time for him to be removed and that the action was political.
- The Senate yesterday resolved to discuss the motion seeking the removal of Pro-Tempore Nyenabo next Tuesday. Prior to Thursday's session, about 21 Senators signed a three-count resolution opting for the removal of the Pro Tempore and were ready to proceed with the motion for vote of no confidence. The Senate is composed of 30 Senators.

- The Daily Observer however reports that there seems to be a split over the removal of Senator Nyenabo as some Senators differ on the resolution.

Government Lifts Ban on Scrap Export

(Heritage, The News, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, National Chronicle The Analyst)

- The Government of Liberia has conditionally lifted the ban imposed on the exportation of scrap metal from Liberia. This followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Government and the Liberia Scrap Association (LSA). The ban was imposed last May and has been lifted for a three-month probation period.
- Speaking at the signing Ceremony yesterday, Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Eugene Shannon warned that if any adverse scrapping of metals is detected during the probation period the government would re-institute a one-year moratorium.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 10:00 am)*

House of Representatives Approves 2008/2009 National Fiscal Budget

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

Senators appear resolute to remove leader

Public Hearings on Draft Freedom of Information Act Today

- Public hearings into the draft Freedom of Information Act is expected to take place today at the Legislature.
- The House Committee on Information and Broadcasting is to supervise the hearings with the participation of key media stakeholders.
- The Freedom of Information act seeks to ensure that journalists and the public have access to public information.
- The Press Union of Liberia through the Liberia Media Law and Policy working group submitted the draft act to the Legislature which is part of two other draft bills submitted by the group.

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

Lutheran Bishop Breaks Silence on Crisis In Church

- Lutheran Bishop Sumowood Harris has for the first time broken silence on the crisis in the Church.
- Speaking to journalists, Bishop Harris said some members were trying to create the impression of a crisis in the church when there was none.
- According to the Bishop no institution is problem-free and believes contending religious issues could be resolved amicably.
- Recently a group of Pastors and Laymen in the Lutheran Church called for the immediate resignation of the Bishop accusing him of hijacking power.
- The group, the "Lutheran Reformers" has since promise non-cooperation with the Bishop until he stands down.

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

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today from at 10:00 am)*

Former US President Bill Clinton Arrives Tomorrow

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Information Minister, Dr. Laurence Bropleh announced the arrival of Former United States President, Bill Clinton, who is expected in the country Saturday for one day visit.
- The former U.S. President is visiting the country to enforce his initiative against the deadly disease AIDS, which he began since leaving office about seven years ago.

- Minister Bropleh said former President, Clinton will hold discussions with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as well as other stakeholders in the country.
- Clinton, who is regarded as the most revered president of the US in the 21st Century, will use his trip to appeal against the high price for drugs.

Commerce Ministry Warns Against Hoarding Country's Staple

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry say it has not authorized any price increase in the sale of "Butter Rice".
- The Ministry reiterated that anyone caught hoarding the commodity will have their goods confiscated and auctioned.
