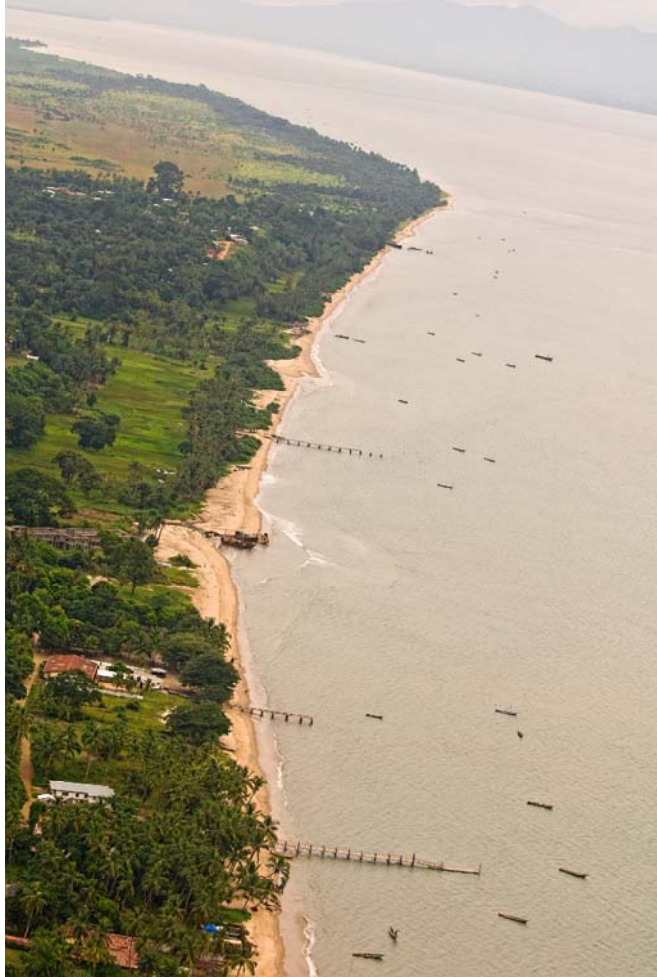


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Lungi Coast

**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:**

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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# ISSA SESAY & CO CAUSE 'CHAOS'



Issa Sesay being handed over to prison authorities on landing at Kigali International Airport

# IN RWANDA

...BUT SATISFIED WITH PRISON CONDITIONS

BY JAMES  
KARUHANGA

KIGALI - The decision not to transfer to Rwanda suspects and convicts from International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), has once again put the tribunal under spotlight as a

fellow UN court sends in convicts to serve their sentences in the country. According to experts and government officials the coming of eight Sierra Leone convicts, to serve their prison sentences in Rwanda, is likely to mount pressure on the ICTR to revisit their

infamous decision. Justice Minister, Tharcisse Karugarama on Sunday stressed that : "The decision by the ICTR not to send prisoners here is a contradiction," after a UN court has, itself, determined that the country's detention facilities meet, or even

surpass international standards. "The decision by the Special Court for Sierra Leone to transfer those convicts here is an eloquent testimony that this court, after due diligence, was satisfied that the facility at Mpanga meets international

*Cont. on Back Page*

## ISSA SESAY & CO CAUSE 'CHAOS IN RWANDA

standards," Karugarama said. Experts said the move puts ICTR under strong scrutiny, in its position that Rwanda's legal facilities do not meet international standards. "This does not end on detention facilities alone, it also questions the sincerity of the excuses put forward by the ICTR to deny transfer of cases to Rwanda and is likely to mount pressure on the court to re-visit that decision," a legal expert who preferred anonymity said. Meanwhile, the Sierra Leone convicts have appreciated the

conditions within the Prison and seemed to adjust fast to the new environment. "When they arrived at Mpanga prison, they were pleased with their new environment and told prison warden that they were surprised with what they saw," said Mary Gahonzire, the Commissioner General of National Prisons Services. Rwanda has continuously pushed for the transfer of convicts of the ICTR but the tribunal has remained defiant, instead opting to ferry off the convicts to West African countries like Mali.

## We Yone

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

### As Special Court Convicts Arrive in Rwanda,...

#### ***By We Yone Staff Writer***

Eldred Collins the interim leader of the Revolutionary United Front Party, the rebel movement purported to have been supported by the SLPP to criminally oust the APC from power in 1992, while lamenting that it is quite unfair for the Special Court for Sierra Leone to send former RUF Interim Leader Issa Hassan Sesay, senior RUF commander Morris Kallon, and former RUF Security Chief Augustine Gbao and other members of the AFRC and CDF to serve jail sentences in Rwanda unequivocally exonerates the All Peoples Congress and the government of President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma from having

anything to do with the what he describes as the machinations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ultimate jailing of people he considers made sacrifices to bring peace to Sierra Leone after long years of destructive war.

The interim RUF party leader Eldred Collins in an exclusive interview at the We Yone office a couple of days after the Special Court for Sierra Leone Appeals Chamber delivered its verdict upholding previous sentences meted out to the trio explained that the erstwhile SLPP government used the Special Court for Sierra Leone as a political instrument to silence the RUF and its leaders noting that is was quite

unfortunate that Sierra Leoneans rather inadvertently remained silence as Issa Sesay, whom he said was the architect of the peace that Kabbah and the SLPP shamelessly claim to have brought to Sierra Leone, being incarcerated while an individual like ex-president Kabbah was tacitly prevented from being indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone even though, Sam Hinga Norman another Special Court for Sierra Leone indictee who died in detention in mysterious circumstances like the RUF leader Foday Sankoh, in quite clear terms told the hearings he attended prior to his death that he had taken instructions from ex-president Kabbah and

as such he (Kabbah) should bear the greatest responsibility for acts committed by the SLPP influenced civil defence force (CDF) of which Norman was the field commander.

“Every one knows that if Hinga Norman should be indicted, there is a need for Mr. Kabbah to answer to the Special Court”, he bellowed.

Contrary to expectations from certain quarters, including the Human Rights Commission that the APC government should have intervened on behalf of the convicts a plea to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to reverse their decision to have them serve their jail sentences in Rwanda, RUF party interim leader Eldred Collins further explains that the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is an agreement between the

Government of Sierra Leone (during the tenure of the then SLPP) and the international community with the UN serving as the broker, an agreement he said the APC can in no way influence or overturn since the SLPP actually gave the international community the impression that the establishment of the Court was a desire of the people of this country. Expressing remorse for the loss of human lives, amputation, arson and destruction that characterized the RUF war, the RUF party interim leader also expressed regret that his compatriots have been jailed where they cannot be visited by friends and loved ones and further distanced from the development innovations of the current APC government.

Eldred Collins again blamed the human rights organizations in Sierra Leone, especially

the Human Rights Commission, for failing to take the issue of jailing convicts in Rwanda as a violation of their fundamental rights and a further deprivation of the Sierra Leonean people from seeing the course of justice implemented at the appropriate time. He expressed optimism that his colleagues will be well behaved demonstrating unreserved remorse for atrocities of the war and appealed to the government of President Koroma and the Special Court for Sierra Leone to extend pardon to these convicts in the coming years.

However, Thomas Koroma of central Freetown believes that while he accedes to the fact that the APC can in no way influence the decisions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the APC can also in no way influence the Special Court for Sierra Leone to pardon these convicts since such an action will be misinterpreted by a host of Sierra Leoneans especially those who were grievously affected by the senseless war. He nevertheless noted that in the interest of national reconciliation the Special Court for Sierra Leone has the prerogative of granting pardon to these convicts.

In the interim, reports from the Central African Republic of Rwanda states that the Government of Rwanda

has received eight convicts of the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone who arrived in Kigali on Saturday night to serve their prison sentences. The convicts are to be housed in the special “UN block” of the Mpanga prison, in Nyanza District, Southern Province, for a period of time varying between ten and fifty years.

The prison has medical and recreation facility to ensure the minimum fundamental rights of prisoners are met.

“Having been chosen to host the convicts from the Sierra Leone Special Court, Rwanda is pleased to make a modest contribution to international justice. The prisoners coming to Rwanda will be treated humanely and with dignity”, said Louise Mushikiwabo, the Government spokesperson.

The Government of Rwanda’s offer to house the Sierra Leonean convicts is consistent with the country’s commitment to international justice and accountability, and in line with efforts to contribute to long-term peace and stability on the continent. This commitment is demonstrated by the role of Rwandan Police in the UNAMIL peacekeeping mission in Liberia and Rwanda Defence Forces in the UNAMID peacekeeping mission Darfur, the report states.

Awoko

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

# Charles Taylor denies sending arms to RUF

**F**ormer Liberian President, Charles Taylor has strongly rejected the testimony of his former Deputy Special Security Service Director Vanuyan Sheriff that he sent arms supplies to the RUF.

Taylor said on the contrary, Sheriff was covertly involved in an illegal arms trade with RUF forces without the knowledge of the government of Liberia.

“A government commissioned probe established that Sheriff had long been involved in shady arms trade with even enemy forces” added.

Occasionally pulling up to his shoulder the ends of his sparkling white gown while seated, Mr. Taylor told the court Sheriff sold arms to his brother code-named, Cobra who was overall commander of LURD forces at the time when government troops were fighting off LURD offensive in Lofa County.” Vanuyan is not being truthful to this court. He was I think the second in command the most senior general and was based in Voinjama and Foya during the time of the conflict. “He was aware of the fact that during disarmament they had hidden these arms. For him to tell this court that this is something he observed is a blatant lie

Regarding allegation of arms being brought through

the Roberts International Airport, The Former Liberian President also denied Sheriff’s claims that Sam Bockarie had gone at the Robert International Airport to receive arms shipment from Burkinabe President Blaise Campore.

Mr. Taylor said it was unlikely that President Campore who chaired the African Union at the time would send arms to Liberia, which was under UN Security Council Arms embargo, without the courtesy to inform him. As far as the second of this 2005 and on, Sam Bockarie was not in Liberia and could not have been at the airport. “You know sometimes these guys’ mix up these things because they are trying to get things together. When Bockarie went to Burkina Faso to the best of my knowledge, he did not collect arms that I know of, Mr. Taylor continues.

He was questioned about the intent of the meeting he held with Johnny Paul Koroma and his West Side Boys in the Executive Mansion in Monrovia.

He said the Koroma-West Side Boys meeting was to help resolve the confusion that developed over the failure of the Lome Peace Accord to give Johnny Paul Koroma a job in the power-sharing Government in Sierra Leone, for which the West Side Boys seized UN peacekeeping military personnel.

Awoko

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

## **NaCSA & Child Fund end symbolic reparation in Kenema**

*By Saffa Moriba in Kenema*

**C**hild Fund Sierra Leone in collaboration with (NaCSA) has ended a five days symbolic reparation programme at Dodo chiefdom in Kenema district.

Speaking at the ceremony in Dodo chiefdom the Regional Director Child Fund Southern Region George Dambo said the 11 year war in Sierra Leone claimed the lives of thousands of ordinary citizens and millions of properties were destroyed.

The reparation process will help Sierra Leonean reflect, connect friends and further trace a stage for healing and the reconciliation in the communities and the country as a whole. George Dambo called on all to make sure that the fragile peace the country is enjoying at the moment is maintained to avert the reoccurrence of war in the country.

In her statement the women's leader at Dodo chiefdom Betty Lahai commended NaCSA and its implementing partners for their development strides in rebuilding the country. She urged parents to send their children especially the girl child to school for the development of the country.

## The Exclusive

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

# Taylor Denies Arms Deal

The Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has strongly rejected the testimony of his former Deputy Special Security Service Director Vamuyan Sheriff bordering on alleged Taylor order of arm supply across the Liberia-Sierra Leone border to the RUF.

*Continued page 2*

## Taylor Denies Arms Deal

*From front page*

Mr. Taylor said on the contrary, Vamuyan Sheriff was covertly involved in an illegal arms trade with RUF forces without the knowledge of the government of Liberia.

Charles Taylor said a government commissioned probe established that Sheriff had long been involved in shady arms trade with even enemy forces.

Occasionally pulling up to his shoulder the ends of his sparkling white gown while seated,

Mr. Taylor told the court Sheriff sold arms to his brother code-named, Cobra who was overall commander of LURD forces at the time when government troops were fighting off LURD offensive in Lofa county. " Varmuyan is not being truthful to this court. Varmuyan Sheriff was I think the second in command, the most senior general and was based in Voinjama and foya during the time of the conflict, He was aware of the fact that during disarmament they had hidden these arms, for

Varmuyan to tell this court that this is something he observed is a blatant lie and this trade is what ensued following my election as president with his trade across the border and even in the picture that was shown with Varmuyan Sheriff with a pick-up in blue over-all alleging that he's being sent by me is a blatant lie, this is the type of trade that Varmuyan Sheriff was involved in" Mr Taylor explained.

Regarding allegation of arms being brought through the Roberts International Airport, The Former Liberian President also denied Sheriff's claims that Sam Bockarie had gone at the Robert International Airport to receive arm shipment from Burkinabe President Blaise Camporari.

Mr. Taylor said it was unlikely that President Camporari, who chaired the African Union at the time would send arms to Liberia, which was under UN Security Council Arms embargo, without the courtesy to inform him. As far as the second of

this 2005 and on, Sam Bokarie was not in Liberia and could not have been at the Air Port. You know sometimes these guys mix up these things because they are trying to get things together. When Bokarie went to Burkina Faso to the best of my knowledge, he did not bring arms to that republic that I know of, Mr. Taylor continued.

Mr Taylor also faced questions about the intent of the meeting he held with Johnny Paul Koroma and his West Side Boys in the Executive Mansion in Monrovia.

He said the Koroma-west side boys meeting was to help resolve the confusion that developed over the failure of the Lome Peace Accord to give Johnny Paul Koroma a job in the power-sharing Government in Sierra Leone, for which the west side boys seized UN peace keeping military personnel.

Mr. Taylor continues his direct examination Tuesday.

Also read this story on [www.exclusivepress.net](http://www.exclusivepress.net)



## Issa Sesay, 55 And Others Enjoy International Prison

**T**he Head of the Outreach and Public Affairs Office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), Peter Anderson, yesterday confirmed that the convicted former Sierra Leonean warlords are enjoying the facilities of an international standard prison at their new center of incarceration in Rwanda.

*By Joseph Turay*

The convicted men were transferred to a Rwandan prison to sever out their sentences last Saturday, because of the inadequacy of facilities at the detention center in Freetown.

The Outreach officer stressed that the prisoners will be living in a country different from Sierra Leone but noted that they will be enjoying international standard prison facilities like Charles Taylor, who is being held in The Hague, Netherlands or any other prisoner in developed countries.

Mr. Anderson said when the prisoners arrived in Rwanda they were received warmly by the prison authorities at the Mpanga Central Prison, which is located in Nyanza District, in the Southern Province of the country.

The prison, he said, covers about 15ha of land and accommodates 6,993



inmates but can accommodate 7,500 inmates.

Anderson said the construction of the prison which started in 2002, began receiving inmates in 2005.

The also confirmed that all their prisoners are now safely settled in their new quarters in Rwanda, among whom are former members of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

(AFRC).

“All eight of them will have the opportunity to watch television and will get other opportunities and facilities such as physical and recreational exercises and

visitors.

He said their family members in Sierra Leone would also have the opportunity to visit them as and how it will be determined and facilitated by the court.

For the RUF, whose appeal sentence was upheld last week, first accused Issa Sesay is to serve 52 years, second accused Morris Kallon 40 years and third accused Augustine Gbao, 25 years.

Issa Sesay will serve the longest term than all others.

## Hybrid Court Cannot Replace ICC

**T**he Senior Counsel, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch, Elise Keppler, has stated that the African Union (AU) should support the High-Level Panel on Darfur's call for prosecutions to provide justice for victims in Darfur.

*By Alpha Bedoh Kamara*

The panel, which is led by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, recommended creation of a "hybrid court," a truth and reconciliation commission and strengthening of domestic criminal justice system, stating that it could usefully supplement justice efforts in Darfur, but cannot replace International Criminal Court (ICC). She disclosed that the panel's report was presented to a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council in Abuja on October 29.

"African Union states should endorse the Mbeki Panel's call for prosecutions, the victims of the attacks in Darfur deserve justice," said Richard Dicker, International Justice Program director at Human Rights Watch.

"A hybrid court and national law reforms could potentially help, but not substitute the ICC's cases," he said.

The High-Level Panel on Darfur was established by the AU in March 2009 to explore ways to secure peace, justice, and reconciliation in Darfur and has carried out its work including sittings and hearings in Sudan for six months and preparing a comprehensive 125-page report.

"The panel concluded that the people of Darfur have

suffered extreme violence and gross violation of human rights. One of the panel's main recommendations is to establish a new hybrid court consisting of Sudanese judges and judges appointed by the AU to prosecute the most serious crimes committed in Darfur," Keppler maintained.

Keppler also said that the Mbeki Panel did not take a position on whether the hybrid court would seek to try cases currently before the ICC, which has been investigating and prosecuting crimes in Darfur since 2005, when the United Nations Security Council referred the situation to the ICC.

Also, the ICC currently has cases against four individuals suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur including President Omar al-Bashir, for whom the ICC issued an arrest warrant on March 4, 2009.

"Sudan has been obstructing justice for crimes committed in Darfur for years," Dicker said. "The proposed hybrid court and national law reforms should not delay the ICC cases for one minute. If and when a hybrid court gets up and running, there will be plenty of additional cases to

fill its docket," he stated.

The Mbeki Panel also recommends strengthening the national criminal justice system and removing immunities for state actors who violate human rights.

"These recommendations are consistent with legal and institutional reforms required under the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed by the ruling National Congress Party and the Southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement, which ended more than 20 years of civil war. A genuine law reform process requires the Sudanese legislature to repeal or amend existing laws to bring them into conformity with applicable international human rights standards," Human Rights Watch said.

These should include, as a matter of urgency, reform of the National Security Forces Act, which currently grants sweeping powers of arrest and detention to national security authorities who continue to commit human rights violations in Darfur and across Sudan.

"The Mbeki Panel's call for real legal reform in Sudan as one key element in improving accountability for human rights violations is welcome," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa Director at Human Rights Watch. "Genuine reforms could also help create the conditions necessary for free and fair national elections in April 2010."

## Cotton Tree News

Tuesday, 3 November 2009

### Sierra Leone war criminals arrive in Kigali

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray



The facilities available at the Mpanga Prison in Rwanda where the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone's eight convicted persons were transferred to serve their jail terms were a surprise to even the convicts on their arrival at the prisons.

According to the Acting Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Binta Mansaray, who was in Kigali, told CTN that the prisoners had earlier expressed their apprehension, of being jailed in Rwanda. She said the convicts had preferred serving time, either Europe or Sierra Leone.



The Acting Registrar of the Special Court, said among the number of reasons why Rwanda was chosen was because, as she put it, 'the Special Court preferred an African solution to an African problem'. She disputed a statement by a counsel for one of the convicted persons that jailing the convicts in Rwanda itself was inhumane. Mrs. Mansaray said the court has put everything in place to ensure that the convicts were treated in the same manner as they were in the Special Court's

detention facilities in Freetown.

## China View

Tuesday, 3 November 2009

www.chinaview.cn

### **Sierra Leone Special Court transfers key prisoners to Rwanda**

FREETOWN Nov. 3 (Xinhua) -- Eight persons convicted of war crimes by the Special Court for Sierra Leone were transferred to Rwanda over the weekend to begin serving their sentences.

Amid tight security, the eight men were flown by helicopter from the special court compound to Freetown International Airport, where they boarded a UN-chartered plane for Kigali, Rwanda, the court said on Monday.

The plane departed at 3:50 p. m. local time on Saturday, carrying the convicts and officials from the special court's security and detention sections.

The prisoners included three former leaders of Sierra Leone's rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao.

The transfer came after the court last week upheld the sentences given earlier in the year to the three RUF leaders. Sesay, Kallon and Gbao were respectively given a jail term of 52 years, 40 years and 25 years by the UN-backed tribunal in the West African country.

The three men were already sentenced in April by the court, which held them responsible for a decade of war atrocities including killings, rapes and mutilations.

The rebel leaders were found guilty of most of the 18 individual counts they were facing, although they denied some of the charges.

The verdict in April was made after the Special Court for Sierra Leone convicted them in February of war crimes. The court was established in 2002 at the end of the civil war which erupted in 1991 in Sierra Leone.

Among other prisoners sent to Rwanda were three former leaders of Sierra Leone's Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), including Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, as well as two former leaders of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa.

The prisoners will be incarcerated at Rwanda's Mpanga Prison under an agreement signed between the special court and the Rwandan government in March.

The facility where they will be held was originally built to house persons convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and meets the international standards for treatment of prisoners, the court said.

At present, no facility in Sierra Leone meets the required international standards.

Editor: Anne Tang

# The Patriotic Vanguard

Sunday, 1 November 2009

## **AFRC, RUF, and Kamajor leaders flown to Rwanda**

Letter to the Editor

By Alfred Sam-Foray, currently in Freetown.

At approximately 3:15 this afternoon (Saturday October 31), the helicopter bearing the 3 AFRC, 3 RUF and 2 CDF leaders took off from the New England Detention Center for Lungi presumably on its way to Rwanda.

The CDF detainees, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Musa Kondewa, refused to give any interviews to news media or bid farewell to the country they fought to save from damnation. Their only wish to their friends is to help relocate their families back home out of Freetown. Such efforts are now underway. Mr. Fofana is not expected to be released from prison until 2018 and Mr. Kondewa five years later.

It is perhaps the saddest day for some of us who worked with these men to twice return civil government to power after Tejan Kabbah twice lost it to rebels through negligence and personal vindictiveness. It is inconceivable that God who is no respecter of persons will hold Kabbah guiltless from the pits of hell for this debauchery and national shame.

Yesterday (Friday October 30) evening when I drove past Heroes Square and down Hinga Norman Street in Kenema City, the only place to so honour Chief Norman, and also the home of another national hero, Prof. Alpha Lavalie, I could not help but wonder where this country would have been had we left it to Kabbah and his fellow infidels alone. With Chief Norman dead and Fofana and Kondewa sent away, we have probably seen the last of Sierra Leone's true heroes.

## Frostillustrated

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

### **Seven-year-long war crimes trial winds down**

(GIN)—A UN-backed court in Freetown, Sierra Leone, has come out with its final verdict after a seven-year-long effort to identify those most guilty of war crimes during the country's decade-long civil war.

Thousands were killed, mutilated and raped in the war, which ended in 2002. The court spent millions of dollars prosecuting suspects from all sides—money that some critics say should have been spent on development projects. In the Freetown court's final hearing, judges upheld the convictions of three rebel leaders.

The only remaining case is that of Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor, who is currently on trial in The Hague. Taylor is accused of backing rebels from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in an attempt to overthrow Sierra Leone's government.

Lengthy jail sentences between 25 and 52 years were handed down to RUF leaders Issa Sesay, Maurice Kallon and Augustine Gbao for a catalogue of crimes against humanity.

The trial set several precedents according to the special court prosecutor, David Crane. Recruiting of child soldiers has become an international crime, as is forced marriage in time of armed conflict. This crime focuses on the "bush wives," whose numbers grew during the civil war. Crane is currently a professor at Syracuse University College of Law in New York.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 November 2009

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **Liberian President Said Shocked by Official's Murder**

(Voice of America) 03 November 2009

Liberian police have reportedly apprehended two individuals for their alleged involvement in the murder of the chairman of the country's Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC). Keith Jubah, considered one of the reform minded individuals in President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government, was killed late Sunday at his farm in Kakata, north of Liberia's capital, Monrovia. Deputy Information Minister Cletus Sieh said President Sirleaf was alarmed by the killing of what she called a good public servant. "The president was very, very shocked over the death of Mr. Keith Jubah. She referred to him as a dedicated public servant...who will be missed by the government and by the Liberian people," he said.

Sieh said President Sirleaf has vowed the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

#### **Police Forces in Liberia Halt Prison Escape**

Tuesday, 3 November 2009, 3:15 pm

Source: United Nations News Service

Police officers serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Liberia have helped foil an attempted mass jail break this weekend from a prison in the West African nation's capital, Monrovia. As many as 50 prisoners tried to escape about 2:20 p.m. yesterday after one inmate at Monrovia Central Prison stole a set of keys from a corrections officer and then locked that officer inside a cell, according to the UN Mission in Liberia. Dozens of detainees moved into the prison yard and tried to scale the prison's perimeter wall before they were intercepted by members of a Jordanian formed police unit (FPU) serving with UNMIL, as well as Liberian police officers and other prison staff. (<http://unmil.org/>).

#### **Liberia may have over 1 bln barrels in oil resources**

CAPE TOWN, Nov 3 (Reuters) - Liberia may have oil resources of over a billion barrels, with the first well expected to be drilled next year, a senior national oil company official said on Tuesday. Marie Leigh-Parker, NOCAL's senior vice president for administration and finance, said the first well would be drilled by Anadarko Petroleum (APC.N) next year. "We are hoping to get more than a billion barrels of oil," she told Reuters on the sidelines of an Africa oil conference. Liberia also expects to conclude the bidding process for off-shore oil exploration blocks 1 to 5 by the end of this year, with some 11 companies, including majors, interested so far. Leigh-Parker said NOCAL has given Hong Kong Tong Tai, a Hong Kong/Chinese international petroleum corporation, until Nov. 15 to amend their bid for blocks 6 and 7 or it will include the blocks, which NOCAL has offered to the company, in the third bidding round. "We told them that by the 15th of November we have to finalise the deal or we include the blocks in the (third) bid round," she said.

## **Seven youths from Liberia learn how to record, edit, write and produce radio programmes**

Source: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

In the run-up to 20 November 2009, the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is featuring a series of stories about this landmark international agreement on the basic human rights of all children – including progress made and challenges that remain. Here is one of those stories. MONROVIA, Liberia, 30 October 2009 – "The last time I got malaria, I had to leave school because I couldn't walk properly. I couldn't eat," says Veldis Malkor, age 13. "I missed school for about a week." Yet Veldis says that he doesn't like to sleep under a mosquito net. "It's too hot," he admits. However, after several days of interviewing some of Liberia's experts on malaria for a UNICEF-sponsored week-long radio production workshop, Veldis will think twice about using one. At the workshop, three boys and four girls from around Liberia learned how to record, edit, write and produce a radio story of their own. Veldis also learned how to stay healthy. The workshop was conducted by UNICEF Radio in partnership with UNICEF's 'Back on Track' programme on Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transition, UNICEF Liberia and Talking Drum Studios.

### **International Clips on West Africa** **Sierra Leone**

#### **Peace Corps Returns to the Country [press release]**

Washington, DC, Nov 03, 2009 (Peace Corps Press Office/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- United States and Sierra Leone government officials signed an agreement to reestablish a Peace Corps program in Sierra Leone after a 16 year absence. Glenn Fedzer, the Charge d'Affaires for the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, and Sierra Leone's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, signed an agreement to officially re-establish Peace Corps/Sierra Leone at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Freetown. Mr. Fedzer was accompanied by Lynn Foden, Peace Corps' acting regional director for Africa. "We are delighted that the government of Sierra Leone has invited Peace Corps volunteers to return and work shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sierra Leone," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams.

#### **Man walks from S. Leone to Ghana**

AfricaNews

A Ghanaian-British is on a 20-day walking journey from Sierra Leone to Ghana to create awareness on human trafficking. Charles Dawson-Amoah, whose trek covers 1000 miles set off over the weekend and is expected to cover 50 miles each day through Liberia, Ivory Coast before coming to the former Gold Coast. Dawson-Amoah, also a former British army officer was moved by the story of a nine-year-old girl who was rescued from a brothel. He told the Awoko newspaper: "That incident has had a telling effect on me as well as when I was in the military and seeing children being innocent victims". He said: "These children after out living their usefulness in the brothel will be killed and their bodies dumped with no records because they entered the UK with false documents."

### **Guinea**

#### **Guinea coup leader says he "regrets" massacre**

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)– The man who led Guinea's most recent coup says he "bitterly regrets" the deaths of civilians who were gunned down by soldiers at a protest last month. Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara said in a TV broadcast late Monday that "the blood of innocent people has been spilled" and that he "prostrates himself" before their memory. But the controversial coup leader declined to say



that men under his control were responsible for the Sept. 28 deaths of over 150 pro-democracy protesters. Camara said opposition leaders were to blame for having organized the demonstration. And in an apparent rebuke to the European Union which has recently issued sanctions against members of his government, Camara said that he would not stand by while foreigners try to "teach Guinea a moral lesson."

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

### **Ivorian universities and research centres paralysed by strike**

Cote d'Ivoire - Public universities and research centres in Cote d'Ivoire are paralysed by a strike which started on Monday to press for better working conditions. The week-long strike to continue until 7 November was called by the Representative Committee for Higher Education, Teachers and Researchers (CNEC), one of the higher education and research trade unions. The teachers are demanding the total payment of salaries and allowances owed them. The demands also focus on the payment of supplementary hours owed them since the 2006-2007 academic year, payment of research allowances, non-interference of political personalities in the election of chairmen of the universities and the granting of allowances to trade unions. According to CNEC spokesman, Traoré Flavien, the strike aims at drawing the attention of the government to the rise in the living conditions of teachers and researchers.

PANA

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Two Persons Arrested in Connection With Murder of PPCC Chairman**

(New Democrat, National Chronicle, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Heritage, The Informer, The News)

- The Executive Mansion says two persons have been arrested in connection with the death of the Chairman of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, Keith Jubah.
- The two suspects are indentified as Abel Bundo and James Linka and a third culprit who is reportedly at large.
- The Executive Mansion says police preliminary investigation suggests that the perpetrators are former disgruntled workers of the Morris' Farm near Kakata, Margibi County.
- Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said Government will ensure that the culprits will not go with impunity.
- Mr. Jubah was shot dead on Sunday at his farm near Kakata. His bullet-ridden body was butchered severely before been set ablaze.

#### **Ballot Papers for Senatorial by-election Arrives in the Country**

(The Informer, National Chronicle, Heritage)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced the arrival into the country of 500,000 ballot papers for the November 10 Senatorial by-election.
- The Chairman of the NEC, James Fromayan said the ballot papers are currently in what he called secured storage until preparations are finalized to have them distributed.
- He said security arrangements were being coordinated with the UN Mission in Liberia and the Liberia National Police which has a stand-by force of over 600 officers.
- Meanwhile, the NEC Chairman has announced that a total of nearly 50,000 voter cards were replaced during the replacement card exercise.

#### **Jail Break Foiled at Monrovia Central Prison**

(The Parrot, The Inquirer)

- Attempts by some prisoners at the Monrovia Central Prison to escape Sunday was foiled when Officers of the Liberia National Police and the Jordanian formed police unit (FPU) serving with UNMIL acted and averted the situation.

## **Executive Mansion Clarifies that President Sirleaf Has Not Received Financial Scandal Investigation Result**

(The News, Heritage)

- The Executive Mansion has clarified that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has not received the report on the Information Ministry investigation as is being reported.
- In an interview, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio said not even the Ministry of Justice has received the full report of the US\$300,000 financial scandal.
- According to Mr. Badio only a draft of the committee's report was shown to the Justice Minister.
- He assured the President was poised to take action into the committee's findings saying the President was committed to transparency and accountability and will not take the report lightly.

## **Over Fifty Percent of Young People in Risky Sexual Behavior in the Country**

(The News)

- The Health Ministry and Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) have released findings of a rapid assessment analysis and action plan on adolescent health and HIV prevention among young people.
- The survey showed over seventy percent of young people interviewed is aware of HIV/AIDS and some mode of transmission and preventive methods.
- However, only forty one point seven percent of over 600 young people interviewed are using some form of contraceptive.
- The young people were interviewed from Grand Bassa, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado, Bomi and Nimba Counties.
- The survey was intended to collect data on adolescent health including HIV awareness, family planning, and unwanted pregnancies among others.

## **UNDP Ends Microfinance Training At Central Bank of Liberia**

(The News, The Analyst)

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Micro-Finance unit at the Central Bank of Liberia has concluded a five-day training workshop on microfinance Business Planning in Monrovia.
- Speaking during the close of the workshop, UNDP Country's Technical Advisor at the Central Bank of Liberia, Mrs. Kenyan Barclay assured the public that the country will get a national business plan done by Liberians which would be a very crucial output of the workshop.
- Also speaking, the National Program Officer of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) said, micro-finance is a tool that can be used to reduce poverty and achieve economic development.
- The workshop was sponsored by the UNDP, UNCDF in collaboration with the Central Bank of Liberia.

## **UNFPA Boss Stresses Fistula Prevention**

(The News)

- The Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Esperance Fundira has stressed the need for more emphasis to be placed on fistula prevention in the country.
- Speaking during a graduation ceremony for eleven fistula survivors from the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centre in the Jacob town suburb, Madame Fundira said the most effective way to prevent fistula is to ensure access to quality maternal health care services.

## **Ministry of Finance Launches New Software**

(The Analyst, The Informer)

- The Bureau of Customs at the Ministry of Finance has carried out the first testing of its ASYCUDA Liberia Software System.
- The system is intended to automate its customs processing and improve service delivery to the public.
- The testing ceremony was held yesterday at the compound of the One-Stop Shop at its Freeport customs collectorate in Monrovia.
- Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Customs Commissioner, Dekontee King Sackie said that the change of the system was to modernize the clearance and declaration systems at the Freeport of Monrovia and facilitate trade and commerce.
- She said funding to build the system was provided by the United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTDA).

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

### **Two Persons Arrested in Connection With Murder of PPCC Chairman**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **Ballot Papers for Senatorial by-election Arrives in the Country**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **New Machine-Readable Passport Launched**

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday launched the new Machine-Readable International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Compliant Liberian National Passports.
- In an interview, the Director of Passport at the Foreign Ministry, Tennema Deline said the new passports are consistent with the requirements of the Organization.
- Madam Deline said with the new passports Liberians abroad would have to go to designated sites including Liberian embassies to have their passports processed.
- Madam Deline said the April 2010 deadline is the internationally accepted deadline for all countries to begin using the biometric passports.

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **Executive Mansion Clarifies that President Sirleaf Has Not Receive Financial Scandal Investigation Result**

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

### **Over Fifty Percent of Young People in Risky Sexual Behaviour in the Country**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **Ministry of Education, LISGIS Sign MOU to Map Schools**

- The Ministry of Education and the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which is intended to facilitate the mapping of schools in the country.
- Education Minister, Dr. Joseph Korto signed for the ministry while LISGIS Executive Director, Edward Liberty signed for his entity.
- Under the MOU, LISGIS and the Education Ministry would combine efforts to collecting data of all pre-primary, primary and secondary schools in Liberia.
- Minister Korto disclosed the United Nations Children Education Fund has provided US\$100,000 for the project.
- Dr. Korto said the European Commission Support to Education in Liberia would also provide technical assistance during the school mapping exercise.

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

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

### **Ministry of Finance Launches New Software**

## New Democrat (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 3 November 2009

### **Liberia: TRC Blames NPFI for Carter Camp Massacre**

Although a UN group, headed by former Kenyan Attorney General Amos Wako, concluded that infamous Carter Camp Massacre in Fireston was the work of soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the TRC has disputed the findings, saying rebels to Mr. Charles Taylor executed the massacre.

The TRC conclusions come after several witnesses during the public hearing testified that National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) carried out the executions. The report:

"June 6, 1993: Massacre of 600 displaced persons at a Harbel Camp within Firestone Plantation. The UN Waco Commission placed responsibility at the door steps of the AFL; observers and TRC findings hold the NPFL responsible for the massacre in which the victims were burned on the outskirts of the camp."

The report also added, amongst others, that:

1991: The NPFL was responsible for the killings of hundreds of members of the Krahn ethnic group and members of the Mandingo community in Grand Gedeh County, who were targeted for formerly supporting the Doe government. NPFL continued to detain, torture, and kill civilians in other areas under their control.

1991: The NPFL or INPFL killed Angeline Watta Allison. It was also reported that her husband, a former defense minister, Major-General Gray Dioh Allison, was captured and executed by the NPFL.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Wednesday, 4 November 2009

### Karadzic assisted by full team of lawyers and students

By Sebastiaan Gottlieb



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

Radovan Karadzic conducts his own defence in his genocide trial, but he is being advised by a big group of lawyers and a lot of students. For months they have been preparing the

defence of the former Bosnian-Serb leader.

The Amsterdam professor of international law Göran Sluiter was asked to form part of the team along with other international colleagues. He insisted as a precondition that Karadzic should respect the rules of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). After he had received assurances, he agreed to the request.

*"In the first place because I consider that he too has the right to an effective defence. Ultimately, also with the goal of improving the quality of the administration of criminal justice. You can only have good administration of criminal justice if there's also a good defence."*

#### **Legitimacy**

The Amsterdam lawyer is busy with procedural matters, and with the question of which documents and statements from other cases may be used in the trial. He is particularly concerned at the question of whether the arrest of Karadzic in Belgrade in June 2008 was lawful.

Professor Sluiter is doing the work without payment, and is using students from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) to carry out research. Students have also been recruited in Australia and the former Yugoslavia to investigate matters which could be important for the defence.

#### **Cooperation refused**

Sluiter doesn't know how the trial of Karadzic will proceed, especially now that the former Bosnian-Serb president is refusing to cooperate at the start of the trial. Karadzic has repeatedly said he needs more time to prepare his defence. Sluiter agrees:

*"If you put that to people, the reaction is very often: 'this man is delaying the business, so you must take strong action'. But if you then explain that it's about someone who is confronted with millions of pages of documents, and that he wants to study and read them properly, then it's easy to understand why this can't be done in the time allowed. I also find it wholly unjust that the trial is already beginning."*

If the court assigns a lawyer to Mr Karadzic against his wishes, Professor Sluiter says this will further complicate an already a complicated situation. The lawyer will need at least six months to read himself in, and Mr Karadzic doesn't want to work with such a lawyer.

*"Then you get into a situation with two parallel defences: one through the lawyer, and the other through Mr Karadzic. And then there's the question of what Mr Karadzic may still do for himself? The lawyers still have to think about that. May he still submit pieces himself, submit motions and requests, or cross-examine witnesses? That will all be very complicated, and in the end the remedy may be worse than the disease."*

## Reuters

Tuesday, 3 November 2009

### Rwanda wants UN to send genocide convicts home

By International Justice Desk



*Kigali, Rwanda*

The United Nations genocide court in Tanzania is renegeing on its promise to transfer Rwandan convicts to serve the remainder of their sentences in their homeland, Rwanda's justice minister said.

Tharcisse Karugarama said he did not understand why the

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) had not returned convicts when Rwanda's jails were deemed sufficient for those convicted by Sierra Leone's war crimes court.

"We signed an agreement with [the] ICTR to transfer the convicts to serve out their sentence here. So far they have not done it. We don't know why," he told Reuters on Monday.

#### **Genocide**

About 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred by Hutu militias within 100 days during the 1994 genocide.

Since its establishment in 1994 the ICTR in Arusha, Tanzania, has convicted 38 people for their role in the genocide and acquitted six. Rwanda, Italy, Benin, Swaziland, France, Sweden and Mali have signed an agreement to host convicts.

Last week, the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) moved eight people convicted of crimes during a decade-long civil war to the "UN block" in Rwanda's Mpanga prison.

It was the first time international convicts had been imprisoned in Rwanda.

ICTR spokesman Roland Amoussouga said the decision on where to house convicts lay with the court and so far no decision had been made with regard to the designation of Rwanda.

He said in the case of the Sierra Leone convicts, it was the ICTR registrar who advised that court to explore with Rwandan authorities the possibility of an agreement for the prisoners.

#### **Language barriers**

Originally, the Sierra Leone court wanted its prisoners to serve their sentences in the French-speaking West Africa countries of Benin or Mali, but could not do so due to language barriers, Amoussouga said.

Karugarama said justice would be better served if the ICTR convicts were sent from Arusha to Rwanda, and that they would enjoy better access for their relatives.

"ICTR are on record as saying the facilities are much better than those in Arusha. So it will be a contradiction and a mystery if they don't send the prisoners here," Karugarama said.