

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



The Single Leg Amputee Football Team warms up during a practice at Kingtom Police Grounds in 2003.

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:

Thursday, 5 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Exclusive
Thursday, 5 April 2007

A Case For The Special Court

PERSPECTIVE

By Guy Warren e-mail: gwarren@yahoo.com.uk

The Republic of Sierra Leone has trundled along turbulent periods since independence.

The niggling effects of abuse of power that also leads to gross injustice became a major factor that exploded into a fratricidal war across the Mano River Union, with the extension of the war to Sierra Leone that lasted for almost 11 years.

This conclusion has been drawn in certain quarters that Foday Sankoh who spearheaded the senseless war, at the time, felt aggrieved as a result of abuse of power and injustice meted out to him by those at the helm as he was said to have been unlawfully detained at the Padema Road Prisons. Generally, sources said, he felt the need to wage war against his adversaries as a way of reiteration to seek justice. Against such background, innocent Sierra Leoneans and foreigners alike who had never known or offended Foday Sankoh had to bear the brunt of the rebel leader as well as atrocities of the so-called RUF fighters from 1991 onto 2001. Before the war came to its logical conclusion, many souls had perished out of Foday Sankoh's frustrations of fighting "tooth and nail" to stop injustice and abuse of power in the country.

These past memories are recalled as people are mindful of the inadequacies of the Sierra Leone Judiciary and the sad reflections of gross injustice still familiar with the justice systems in the country. The truth should not be glossed over, at this point, talking about the need for a justice or judicial system that stands on the threshold of democratic principles: that the rule of law, justice and equality should not be downplayed or placed on the platform of preferential treatment or become akin to the law of the jungle/ the animal kingdom, where some animals are superior than others. Abuse of power and injustice became two main strands that reportedly caused Sankoh to spearhead a rebellion and in attempts to correct such social ills in the country's political domain. Appallingly, however, the late rebel leader also went beyond bounds thereby violating the issues of human rights, the rule of law, justice and equality.

The Judicial systems

This brings to mind a recent judgment delivered by Magistrate Adrain Fisher, who presided over a matter involving the son of the Minister of Mines, an accomplice and the Sierra Diamond Investment Co Ltd on December 1st at Magistrate's Court No.1, Freetown. The outcome of the case, as gauged by opinion poll, gave every indication that the judiciary still has "skeletons in the cup". This, therefore, gives the impression that there is the urgent need for the Judiciary to dance to the dictates of the rule of law, justice and equality as highly entrenched in all facets of democratic practices.

Adrain Fischer's recent judgment delivered in relation to Mines and Mineral Act 1994 as regards the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme- Certificate of Origin and the gross violation of Anti-Money Laundering Act 2005 by the Minister's son and an accomplice has been questioned by many diamond business men as surrounding the frills of falsehood. A leading diamond business man pronounced that: "It exposes the belief that many people seeking redress through the justice system, one way or the other, always suffer similar "bending" of the law to appease those highest bidders in the "scheme of things" in matters of jurisprudence. That the legal luminary ruled out the Parliamentary clauses of the Mines and Mineral Act of 1994 as amended in 1999 and 2004 including the Anti- Money Laundering Act 2005. The legal luminary dwelt on what he referred to as "non-existence" of an Act of Parliament for the Mines and Mineral Act to deal with perpetrators who smuggled out what are believed to be "blood diamonds" and money laundering into Sierra Leone in violation of United Nations resolutions."

For that reasons, diamond dealers or moguls are of the view that, "Magistrate Adrian Fisher's verdict or judgment on the matter between the accused persons and the complainant company was too clogged and abstruse to fathom-all boiling down to the conception that he might have compromised his profession to appease the powers that be, or his palm was greased as it is usually practiced in the mining industry."

Abuse of power

In the same vein, some Sierra Leoneans are also inclined to believe that, this is not the first time the Judiciary has come under intense pressure in matters of jurisprudence. A case in point is that which involves the late Harry Hassan Yasaneh, Editor of For Di People, who reportedly died under undue circumstances as a result of "egregious" human right abuses and the abuse of power.

Yet those behind the late man's death are walking freely under the guise of judicial protection, knowing very well that the justice systems in the country grossly failed to use the applicable laws to make the culprits face the full force of the law for the "gross" injustice meted out to the journalist. "In all this, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon F.A. Carew, who sits on the pedestal of authority remains cross-armed and, along the lines, aggrieved Sierra Leoneans always blame him for compromising issues of the rule of law, justice and equality in palliation of the "right" execution of the laws applicable to the justice systems of the country," a leading journalist told this writer in a telephone conversation.

Blood diamonds

The issue of blood or conflict diamonds remains topical in the sense that it became one of the factors in fuelling the decade war in Sierra Leone. And, this has always been an issue of scrupulous concern for the United Nations, Amnesty International, Global Witness and major international organiza-

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tions. Thus United Nations has come up with guidelines to streamline the issue of the proliferation of blood or conflict diamonds as well as money laundering into areas described as hot spots for the purpose of fuelling conflicts or wars. One of the guidelines is the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into force in 2002. However, with the expectation of the enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification, it appears vividly clear that authorities in the mining industry are reluctant to remove the apron-strings surrounding smuggling of conflict diamond into the country, referring to the most recent case of the Minister of Mines' son and his accomplice who admitted in court for smuggling 32.17 carat diamonds from Guinea into Sierra Leone and in breach of the United Nations resolutions. Still the court, under the jurisdiction of Magistrate Adrian Fisher, failed to adduce the facts that the move was in violation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme including money laundering. There is no denying the fact that the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, with all intent and purposes, is well aware of section 118C (1) of Mines and Mineral (Amendment) Act No.1 of 1999. It reads, "Smuggling of precious minerals from Sierra Leone": No person shall smuggle any precious minerals outside Sierra Leone. (2) A person smuggles precious minerals if he- (a) exports any precious mineral the exportation of which is prohibited by any enactment. (b) Exports any precious mineral the exportation of which is subject to any license, permit or condition, whether or not or where such exportation is effected without or in contravention of such license or permit or contrary to or without fulfilling such condition." Against this background, can the Minister "before God and man" say that the Dubai based exporter company which exported the conflict diamonds did fulfill all the conditions as demanded by law, more particularly when it did not provide a lawful evidence of cash inflow, either through the banking system for which a credit advice is made to the company or a "currency" importer's declaration accompanied by a Government of Sierra Leone Pro-forma Entry for Goods Ex-aircraft form properly completed to the Controller of Customs and Excise, and an assignment of the currency imported to the Dubai Exporter company. This remains as a strict compliance to the signing of the Kimberley Process Certificate of Origin. Again, in the absence of evidence of cash inflow the Dubai exporter company should have provided a written undertaking for repatriation of the export proceeds. Consequently, in violation of this and other set conditions, the Minister of Mines was charged for Forgery; Conspiracy to defraud; Aiding and abetting. The claim of cash inflow remains the crux of the matter between Alhaji Mohamed Swarry Deen, his son and relative on one part and the Sierra Diamond Investment Co Ltd on the other part, having exported the precious minerals in question from Sierra Leone and signing the Kimberley Process Certificate of origin No.001998 dated 15th December 2006 for 5 pieces of diamonds weighing 32.17 carat, valued at US\$101, 211.23 as the Minister purports same to be rough (uncut) diamonds of Country of Origin (mining) Sierra Leone. Would the Minister explicitly take cognizance of President Kabbah's statement regarding the offences of blood diamonds?: "My government has, with the aid of the international community, criminalized the trade in blood diamonds, and successfully introduced the certification process for all diamonds bought and exported from Sierra Leone since the year 2000. In addition, we established the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate and prosecute corrupt activities". This is another salient point raised by President Kabbah. This also stands to indict the Minister of Mines who is the signatory to the United Nations Resolutions/Kimberley Process Certification Protocols on conflict diamonds now being accused and potentially liable to face the full force of the laws of Sierra Leone and the Special Court for violating the said Kimberley Process Certification Protocols.

Anti-Money Laundering

The gravity of the offences committed by the two accused persons, with the Minister of Mines aiding and abetting the offences by appending his signature to a Kimberley Process Certificate of Origin and forging such a UN document (prescribed), without the official government stamp went a long way to suggest that smuggling of conflict diamonds and money laundering remained very prominent in his Ministry, with the support of the powers that be. Many diamond businessmen, however, believe that it has always been the normal practice of the Mines Minister for which the industry is saturated with conflict diamonds, which continued to hamper the diamond business in Sierra Leone as well as the high demand for the country's gem in the international market formerly known as "Sierra gems." What is crystal clear is that if the United Nations was not seriously concerned about the gravity of the smuggling of conflict or blood diamonds and equally money laundering, President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah wouldn't have been compelled recently to host the Sensitization Seminar on the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2005, after two years of promulgating it into law.

At the opening session of the seminar President Kabbah made this keynote statement: "Action must be taken in all fronts: legal, regulatory, financial and law enforcement. Coordination at all levels is also important if the fight against money laundering is to succeed. My government will

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continue to provide the strongest support in the fight against money laundering so as to make Sierra Leone a crime free economic environment." President Kabbah also cited the negative effect of money laundering, saying that: "The negative effect of money laundering on economic development and to the nation are difficult to quantify. It is, however, clear that the prevalence of money laundering in the country generates more crime and corruption, which slow down economic growth and distorts the economy, external sector, international trade and capital flow. It also enhances the use of bribery of personality/ agents such as employees and management of financial institutions, lawyers and accountants, legislature, enforcement agencies, supervisory authorities, police and custom officers, prosecutors and courts to make money laundering efforts successful."

Now, those reading between the lines are inclined to believe that President Kabbah's recent statement on money laundering has a direct bearing on the matter between the Sierra Diamond Investment Co Ltd (complainant company) and the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, his son and an accomplice who dabbled in money laundering and confirmed outsourcing a chunk sum of US\$120,000 meant for investment in the economy of Sierra Leone, but diverted from its shores right into Guinea to purchase what was believed as conflict or blood diamonds and, again smuggling the 5 pieces of diamond weighting 32.17 carat from Guinea into Sierra Leone for export purposes. This state of affair constitutes tax evasion in breach of the Income Tax Act (2000). Yet, it seems very clear that the National Revenue Authority (NRA), starved with revenue collection, has overlooked the tax evasion perpetuated by the Minister of Mines and all those who are involved in the 5 pieces diamond (32.17) smuggled from Guinea and now smuggles officially from Sierra Leone. Going by the strict compliance with the laws, what would have been the fate of the Minister of Mines, his son and relative, if by design they were not left off the hook at the expense of the "wrong" genesis of the law? "The general consensus is that the Judiciary compromises issues of international concern and there is no way rights that are breached or violated in the face of United Nations Resolutions and Protocols would seek proper redress as long as the cognoscenti (e) of the law or some magistrates and the Attorney General continue to compromise the rule of law, justice and equality locally," a leading diamond dealer blasted.

The Criminal Procedure Act, 1965 (Being An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law Relating to Criminal Procedure), under Previous Acquittal Or Conviction, states thus: "A person, who has been once tried for an offence and convicted or acquitted of such offence, shall not be liable to be tried again on the same facts for the same offence or any other offence of which he could have been lawfully convicted at the first trial, unless a retrial is ordered by a Court having power to do so". This simply applies that the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which draws inspiration from the international community and under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Security Council has the powers vested on it to preside over such offences of international exposure that were committed by the Minister of Mines, his son and an accomplice. That the accused persons violated the Mines and Minerals Act 1994 regarding the Kimberley Process Certificate of Origin Scheme and the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2005, but were acquitted and discharged by the said Magistrate Adrian Fisher.

To set a bright example for future violators of the Kimberley Process Certification on conflict diamonds and Money Laundering, a cross-section of businessmen argue that this is a case for the Special Court or the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exercise jurisdiction to bring to book the Minister of Mines and the other accomplices now that the case involving the Sierra Diamond Investment Co Ltd has brought to light the inadequacies and injustice prevailing in the judiciary. The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, by all degree of magnitude, also has a question to answer and obliged to give reasons to the United Nations or the Special Court for nullifying the case brought against the Minister of Mines Alhaji Mohamed Swarry Deen for conspiracy to defraud and to have aided, abetted, counseled and procured Sorie Ibrahim Turay to convert to his own use and benefit the sum of US\$131,600, an equivalent of 395 million leones, even before the case was called for his first appearance in court. The other charges include forgery, contrary to section 2(1)(a) of the Forgery Act, 1913; That Alhaji Mohamed Swarry Deen, on a date between Friday the 1st day of December, 2006 and Tuesday the 16th day of January 2007 at Freetown, in the Freetown Judicial District in the Western Area of the Republic of Sierra Leone, with intent to defraud, forged documents to wit the Kimberley Process Certificate for the purpose of exporting rough (uncut) diamonds purporting to be diamonds of country of Origin (Mining) Sierra Leone in violation of the Protocols of the Interlaken Declaration (2002), and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions UNSC 1173, 1295 & 1306 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, to enable Alpha Yayah Deen to export the same, having the full knowledge that the said diamonds which were purchased and bought from

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the Republic of Guinea by the said Alpha Yayah Deen.

Offences before Special Court

What is Special Court? Whereas the Security Council, in its resolution 1315(2000) of 14 August 2000, expressed deep concern at the very serious crimes committed within the territory of Sierra Leone against the people of Sierra Leone and United Nations and associated personnel and at the prevailing situation of impunity; Whereas by the said resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone to create an independent special court to prosecute persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law and crimes committed under Sierra Leone law.

Offences prosecuted before the Special Court are not prosecuted in the name of the Republic of Sierra Leone. OFFENCES OUTSIDE SIERRA LEONE: Section 42 of the Special Court Agreement states that, "Any person who commits outside Sierra Leone any act or omission in relation to the Special Court that, if committed in Sierra Leone, would be an offence under the Act, may be tried as if he had committed the act or omission in Sierra Leone." The Special Court Agreement, 2002(Ratification) Act, 2002 under section 43 and 44 of the offences illegal possession of property and money laundering state thus: "Illegal Possession of Property: (1) Any person who possesses any property or any proceeds of property knowing that all or part of the property or proceeds were obtained or delivered directly or indirectly as a result of-(a) any act or omission that constitutes a crime within the jurisdiction of the Special Court or (b) the commission of any offence under this Act; commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding thirty million leones or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years or to both such fine and imprisonment. (2) A person is not guilty of an offence under this section by reason only that he is in possession of property or the proceeds of property mentioned in subsection (1) for the purpose of (a) executing an order of the Special Court; (b) complying with a request by the Special Court; or (c) otherwise acting for the purpose of a lawful investigation." It is, however, deduced that the son of the Minister of Mines who traveled to Guinea by concealing a substantial sum of US\$120,000 to buy 32.17 carats and, without obtaining the Kimberley Process Certificate(Country of Origin-mining Guinea), smuggling the diamonds into Sierra Leone is liable to face the offences of illegal possession of property and money laundering.

On "Money Laundering: (1) Any person who-

(a) knowingly uses, transfers the possession of, sends or delivers to another person or to any place, transports, transmits, alters, disposes of or otherwise deals with, in any manner or by any means, any property or any property or any proceeds of property with intent to conceal or cover the property or proceeds; or

(b) knowing or believing that all or part of the property or proceeds was obtained or derived directly or indirectly as a result of- (i) any act or omission that constitutes a crime within the jurisdiction of the Special Court; or (ii) the commission of any offence under this Act; commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding thirty million leones or a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years or to both such fine and imprisonment."

What would the Attorney General say for nullifying the case, when the facts were not put on record? With the facts and legal implications now laid bare, what would the Minister of Mines, Alhaji Swarry Deen, Magistrate Adrian Fisher, the two persons involving in the matter of the Sierra Diamond Investment Co. Ltd say? Now it is very paramount to note that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Certificate of Origin- is a United Nations "prescribed" document and at all cost should always be protected and defended by the international community and organizations under the jurisdiction of the United Nations such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, it has been established in certain quarters that, as a result of the malpractices in the diamond industry, allegedly supported by the Minister of Justice and Minister of Mineral Resources, the negative effects have seriously led to major diamond companies including the Rapaport Diamond Company based in New York, which opened offices in Freetown and Bo, winding up or folding up its operations. Against this background several publications by Sierra Leonean leading newspapers recently highlighted on blood diamonds and money laundering in articles captioned: "Master and Registrar approves bail for Diamond mafias...US\$120,000 in limbo" dated Wednesday July 5, 2006 and another headline captioned: "Kabbah should sack Swarry Deen now," dated Monday April 24, 2006 including another biting article in one of the local newspapers headlined: "US\$131,000 Racket Unfolds... Court told how Minister's son was caught with diamonds" and dated Monday July 17, and "Money Laundering Act Bites... Mines Minister's son in \$120,000 deal", dated Tuesday July 4, 2006 did not catch the eyes of the powers that be to urge them to take action and, not even the Anti-Corruption Commission created by President Kabbah could also go hard on the Minister of Mines, his son and a relative for violating the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, Money Laundering and tax evasion. All the publications, to a large extent, exposed the diabolical dealings in the diamond sector, a bad precedent that had given cause for President Alhaji Dr. Ahamed Tejan Kabbah to take the bull by the horn and coming strongly against blood diamonds and money laundering, albeit belatedly. The looming question is: Action speaks louder than words and, if Sierra Leone's President Kabbah is ready to take a decisive action against the Minister of Mines, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Learned Magistrate and others for violating, aiding and abetting, and/or condoning the United Nations Protocols on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme on blood diamonds and Money Laundering it is yet left with the international community and the United Nations to see.

The Spark

Thursday, 5 April 2007

LAWCLA Launches Juvenile Justice Book

By Abu Bakarr Jalloh

The Centre for Legal Assistance LAWCLA yesterday launched a handbook entitled 'Juvenile Justice in Sierra Leone Law and Practices at the Miatta Conference Hall Youyi Building Freetown.

During the occasion, the Chairman Mr. Benedict Sannoh who is the head of UNIOSIL Human Right Section said such a book is to

bring to mind juvenile justice system in Sierra Leone, which need to be addressed if the society is to develop for the future. He highlighted the TRC recommendation, which stipulated clearly areas that relate to children, which is to be implemented.

Mr. Melron Nicol Wilson, the National Director of LAWCLA gave an overview of the handbook, highlighting

issues relating to juvenile justice and the need to domesticate it in our Law books. He also mentioned the important of reform and rehabilitation and specialised training for Law enforcement official. He thought about the domestication of the convention of the right if children. He further went on to examine the administration of juvenile justice in the country while his comrade Oju R. Wilson gave a review of the book in relation to the treatment of juvenile jus-

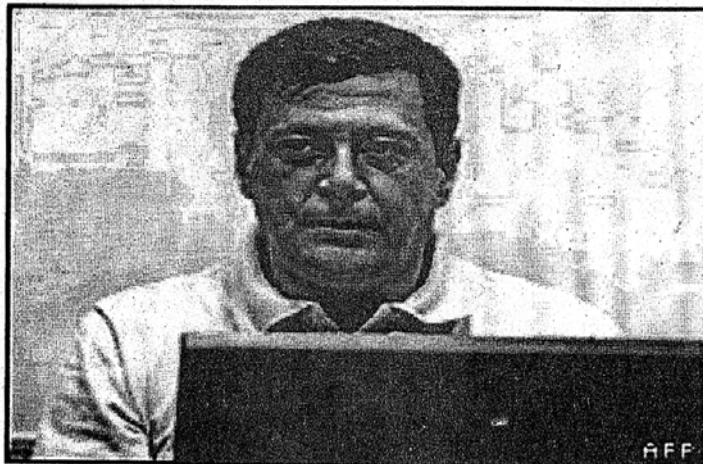
tice. Mrs. Mariatu Bangura who represented the Minister of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs gave the keynote address and highlighted the job that her ministry is presently doing to salvage the children in the country. Forum African Women Educationalist and the Children's Forum Network made another statement.

The Country Director Plan International Mrs. Fadimatu Alainchar did the formal launching of the handbook.

The Spectator
Thursday, 5 April 2007

World Watch
Credit BBC

Bosnian Serb jailed for 15 years



Zelenovic pleaded guilty in January to rape and torture

A Bosnian Serb former policeman has been sentenced to 15 years in jail by the UN war crimes tribunal for the rape and torture of Bosnian Muslim women. Dragan Zelenovic, 46, pleaded guilty to the crimes, which took place

during the 1992-1995 war in the former Yugoslavia. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors at The Hague war crimes tribunal agreed to drop another seven charges. Zelenovic was indicted in 1996. He was arrested in Russia in 2005 and extradited to The Hague last year. Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) had sought a 10 to 15-year sentence, while the defence had asked for seven to 10 years.

'Unspeakable pain' Zelenovic showed no emotion, sitting with his head bowed and eyes closed as the presiding judge read out a summary of his crimes before passing sentence. Zelenovic was just 15 when she was illegally imprisoned and gang-raped. Another had a gun held to her head while she was raped, the court heard. "The victims... suffered the unspeakable pain, indignity and humiliation of being repeatedly violated, without knowing if they would survive the ordeal," said judge Alphons Orie.

"The scars left by the sexual assaults were deep and might never heal. This perhaps more than anything speaks about the gravity of the crimes in this case." Zelenovic pleaded guilty in January, saying he wanted to spare his victims the ordeal of having to testify. Zelenovic was among Bosnian Serb forces responsible for a campaign of rape and sexual assault of Muslim women in 1992 and 1993 in Foca, where he was deputy commander of the military police. When it first came to court in 2001, the case established rape and sexual enslavement as a crime against humanity. Zelenovic was on the run at the time, but was arrested in Russia in 2005, where he had been working on building sites in Siberia under a false identity. Three other Bosnian Serbs indicted at the same time were convicted and given jail sentences ranging from 12 to 28 years in 2001.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast braces for two months of power cuts

By Loucoumane Coulibaly

ABIDJAN, April 3 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast faces disruptions to power supply over the next two months, which will affect neighbouring countries, as hydroelectric output dwindles and gas supplies dry up, a senior executive said on Tuesday. Kouadio Djaha, head of energy supply at the Ivorian Electricity Company, said the shortfalls would also have repercussions in Ghana, Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso which are connected to the Ivory Coast network.

Local Media – Newspaper

Lawmakers to Elect New Speaker on Thursday

(Public Agenda, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Informer, The Inquirer, New Democrat and Heritage)

- Members of the House of Representatives are gearing up to elect a new Speaker on tomorrow, Wednesday. The three contestants for the post are Edward Forh of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Armah Sarnoh of the Liberty Party and Alex Tyler of the Liberia Action Party. The election follows the resignation of Speaker Edwin Snowe.

University of Liberia Graduates 1,000 Students Today

(Daily Observer)

- The University of Liberia will today graduate more than 1,000 students with undergraduate and graduate degrees in various disciplines at the institution. The United States Ambassador to Liberia Donald Booth is expected to deliver the commencement address.

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

Key National University Passes out Graduates Today

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Government to Handover Rubber Plantation to Concessionaire Today

- Agriculture Minister, Dr. Chris Toe told reporters that the Government of Liberia would today, Wednesday; handover the Cocopa Rubber Company in Nimba County to the management of the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County after it had taken it over for three months in lieu of appalling security situation around the farm.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Major Rubber Plantation Workers Rival over Union Leadership

- A Radio Veritas correspondent said that confusion over which group heads the leadership of the Firestone Agriculture Workers Union (FAWU) with the Ministry of Labour rejecting a decision by the General Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU) to reinstate the suspended FAWU officials and contended that the interim management team of FAWU which the Ministry put in place, would remain.
- However, speaking at a news conference yesterday, Acting Labour Minister John Josiah said that soldiers of the United Nations Mission in Liberia who accompanied the “controversial” leadership to the reinstatement programme were ordered by him [Minister Josiah] to leave and that the exercise was aborted.
- For his part, the Secretary-General of the Liberia Federation of Labour Unions, Mr. Isaac Williams thought GAWU had no authority to reinstate the suspended officials of FAWU and should refrain from actions to cause chaos.

Government Transfers Motor Vehicle Division to Transport Ministry

- In her remarks during the turning over to the Ministry of Transport of the Motor Vehicle Division of the Ministry of Finance, Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh announcement that the Government would begin issuing drivers licenses to the public, attributing the delay to an intense bidding process which has been completed.
- For his part, Transport Minister Jeremiah Sulonteh stated that the exercise to return the Motor Vehicle Division to the Transport Ministry was not about who wins, but was done purely to serve the Liberian people better, assuring that the Ministry would generate the needed revenue while the Ministry of Finance would collect the money in keeping with Government’s fiscal policy.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 9:00 am)*

Solicitor-General Accuses Police of Torture

- Commissioning a Police depot in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Solicitor-General Taiwan Gongloe warned that any Police Officer found torturing Liberian citizens would be weeded out of the Police and called on officers of the Liberia National Police to dispense justice in accordance with the rule of law as a common mistake by a single police officer could drive away investors from the Country. Police Inspector Munnah Sieh encouraged the people of Cape Mount to report any incident of the police.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.