

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, 5 June 2006

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

New Citizen
Monday, 5 June 2006

New President for the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone has been elected Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes him President of the Special Court for a period of one year.

Justice King succeeds President Justice Raja Fernando of Sri Lanka, whose term ended on 26 May.

Justice George Gelaga King has been President of the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and of Court of Appeal of The Gambia. He served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to France,



**Justice George
Gelaga King**

Spain, Portugal and Switzerland from 1974 to 1978, and was at the same time Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to UNESCO. Between 1978 and 1980, he served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Justice King taught law at the Sierra Leone Law School from 1990 to 2005. He is Chairman of both the Sierra Leone Law Journal and the Gambian National Council for Law Reporting, and was a member of the Sierra Leone Council of Legal Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He has been a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone since December 2002.

The Appeals' Court Judges also selected Justice Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria as Vice-President. He will succeed Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

New Citizen

Monday, 5 June 2006

DOWNBELOW: SIR ALBERT CONVERSES WITH MARAH & TEACHER LAGAWO—EPISODE 6 / PART 3

Sir Albert opined, "Tejan could have set an example by appointing Victor Foh of the APC as cabinet minister. But why was he not pleased with Victor Foh?"

Teacher Lagawo answered, "Sir Albert, as in the case of Victor Foh, the rejection by parliament of Sheki Bangura, George Gelega King and Dr. S. S. Barya was due to parliamentary screening. Infact, Tejan even expressed resentment on SLBS Radio over nominees rejected by parliament." Again Sir Albert asked, "o.k. gentlemen, now that you had elected a president and parliament, who acted as Speaker of Parliament?"

In unison, Marah and Teacher Lagawo replied, "Justice Sheku Kutubu."

Sir Albert observed, "you had earlier informed me that Justice Kutubu served as Chief Justice, is that not so?" Marah replied, "when he retired from the position of Chief Justice, he was replaced by Justice Samuel Beccles Davies."

Sir Albert wobbled his head and said, "wonderful— all these old names ring a bell. Alright, so did the new government commence work immediately?"

Together, Teacher Lagawo and Marah responded, "yes, Sir Albert."

Again, Sir Albert posed the question, "so, what



Victor Foh

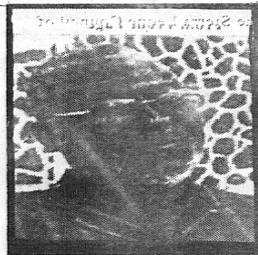
else?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "the top-most priority of the government was to end the rebel war as was promised."

Sir Albert again asked, "oh the war eh? That Bio boy had already initiated dialogue with the rebels, is that not so?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "yes. We had to continue from that point although the rebel war was still raging. However, the then Deputy Minister of Defense, Sam Hinga Norman had an idea."

Sir Albert observed, "gentlemen, don't let



Hinga Norman me recall the past. Was Hinga Norman appointed Deputy Minister of Defense? He was an asset in my army while I served as Head of State and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces. Left to him alone gentlemen, my government could not have been kicked out of power."

Marah observed, "it is the opinion of some people that Hinga Norman arrested the then Governor General while Siaka Stevens was being sworn into office as Prime Minister, is that not so Sir Albert?"

Sir Albert replied, "it will be a long episode during this conversation if we attempt to debate the role of



George Gelega King Norman in the 1967 event. Actually, gentlemen, the NRC set up the Dove Edwin Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstances that led to the 1967 political upheavals in the country. People should read these reports to ascertain the facts. Anyway, Hinga Norman was loyal to me and Lansana. I know many people were apprehensive of him because of the allegations levied against him. So what was this idea about advanced by Hinga Norman?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "Hinga Norman advanced the concept that since the citizenry no longer had confidence in the military, a civil defense militia be strengthened and armed to pursue the rebels."

Sir Albert observed, "gentlemen, you mean the civil militia formed by Alpha Lavalie?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "yes, the strengthening and arming of the civil defense militia."

Sir Albert asked, "how did you go about it?"

Teacher Lagawo responded, "Hinga approached me with the suggestion that the responsibility of ending the war squarely rests on our shoulders because the SLPP was erroneously conceived by many Sierra Leoneans as a Southeastern party. Infact, non-Southeasterners accused our own people of starting the war. So, it was high time something was done to end the war."

To be continued

Awoko

Monday, 5 June 2006

Civilian killed, his head paraded in wheelbarrow

By Betty Milton

Answering questions from the Defence lawyer a witness, Kinnie Toma Kanneh, has told the Special Court of how the Treasury Clerk of Moyamba, one Mr. Thomas, was killed by civilians and his head placed in a wheelbarrow and paraded in the township.

The 75-year-old witness disclosed that he knew Madam Ella Kobolo Golama, the then Paramount Chief of Moyamba District, and that she too was leading Kamajors' efforts to defend her land.

The witness maintained

that while he was in Bonthe, he heard that during their second attack of Kamajors' positions in Moyamba the rebels were able to dislodge them from that district.

After the dislodgement of the Kamajors, Ella Koblo Golama took refuge at Rutile, while other chiefs in various districts agreed that the Kamajors should assist in repelling the rebels from Moyamba.

Mr. Kanneh stated that the counter-attack did not take long. Though they had no guns, with only cutlasses and sticks they chased out the rebels but that a total of 40 houses were burnt down.

The witness confirmed that after the fight, they were told by the chiefs to hold the

fort in Moyamba so that the people would be protected. It was at this juncture, the witness went on, that one Chuck Norris was appointed as head by members of the War Council at a meeting held at Talia. "I was also appointed deputy to Chuck Norris," he revealed.

The defence Lawyer, Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie after going through the transcript of the witness, asked whether he knew one Mr. Thomas who was killed in Moyamba? To this, the witness said: "Yes."

Narrating further Mr. Kanneh stated that one day he was met by one Mustapha Ngobeh who

told him that, "he had received a report from people that Mr. Thomas had been sending letters to the rebels at Camp Charlie about the activities of the Kamajors and that after they had searched him, they saw

a letter in his bag which was written to him by the rebels."

He went on: "Early one morning, I saw a crowd of people moving along Sembehun Road. When I joined them I saw the head of a man in a wheelbarrow

driven by civilians who were singing. When I saw this, I immediately ran to Ngobeh's house and asked him why he handed over the man to civilians. He told me that it was the civilians who requested that Mr. Thomas be bought to them."

Associated Press

Friday, 2 June 2006

Trial of Charles Taylor unlikely to proceed this year

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor's defence team has some reading to do before his war-crimes trial begins -- 32 000 pages of documents and witness statements compiled by prosecutors.

That gives them plenty to do while officials work out where the trial will be held and where the accused warlord might be jailed if convicted.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the joint Sierra Leone-United Nations tribunal want the trial held outside of West Africa because of security concerns. The Netherlands has agreed to host it, but only if Taylor leaves immediately after -- convicted or not.

So far, no nation has agreed to take Taylor in, and the trial is unlikely to begin until some nation does.

Speaking in London on Wednesday, Johnson-Sirleaf said she was optimistic a European Union country would break the impasse. Her information minister, Johnny McClain, stressed on Friday that Liberia had no control over the matter.

"It is the prerogative of the court," he told The Associated Press.

On Thursday, Sweden's Parliament approved a law making it possible for the Scandinavian country to imprison Taylor if he is convicted -- though Sweden has not yet officially decided whether it would do so and previously rejected requests to jail him. Denmark and Austria also rejected requests.

The Sierra Leone Special Court was established by the UN and Sierra Leone to try those accused of bearing the greatest responsibility for atrocities during that country's 1991-2002 civil war. Taylor faces 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from his alleged backing of Sierra Leonean rebels who terrorised victims by chopping off their arms, legs, ears and lips.

While the charges refer only to Sierra Leone, Taylor is accused of fomenting violence in his homeland and elsewhere in West Africa.

He was transferred into the custody of the Sierra Leone court in late March from exile in Nigeria.

Prosecuting attorneys completed investigations last month and furnished Taylor's defence team with the 32 000 pages of documents, which they have six months to review, said Peter Andersen, a spokesperson for the UN-backed war-crimes court.

"The trial definitely is not expected to start before the end of this year," Andersen told The Associated Press this week.

Sando Johnson, who served as a member of Parliament during Taylor's ousted regime, said he met Taylor in detention at the court complex in Sierra Leone in early May and the former warlord expressed concern about the trial.

"The former president told me all he wants is a fair and speedy trial," said Johnson, speaking in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

The court last week dismissed a motion filed by Taylor's lawyer, who is pressing to keep the trial in Sierra Leone. Taylor says his witnesses and relatives will not be able to attend if the trial is moved to Europe.

Andersen said a trial in Europe would require more money, in part to cover witnesses' travel costs, and three additional judges. The court runs off voluntary funding from UN member states.

"Money would have to be found," Andersen said. "This is being looked at the moment."

Taylor launched his Liberian insurgency in 1989 and won elections that handed him the presidency in 1997. Rebels took up arms against him three years later and Taylor fled into asylum in Nigeria in 2003. -- Sapa-AP

IRIN

Thursday, 1 June 2006

SIERRA LEONE: Decision on Taylor trial venue rests with head of Special Court

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]



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The new president of the UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, Justice George Gelaga King, is expected in the coming days to make the final call on whether to try former Liberian president Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone or The Hague in the Netherlands.

Taylor faces charges of war crimes in Sierra Leone including murder, rape and providing financial support for Sierra Leone rebel fighters who terrorised civilians, hacking off their hands and feet.

Charles Taylor is waiting to hear where he will be tried for war crimes

If Justice King decides to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor and push for Taylor's trial to be moved to The Hague, the indictments will still be served under jurisdiction of the Sierra

Leone Special Court but will use the high security facilities of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Or, King could make an about turn and lobby to keep the landmark trial in Sierra Leone.

This week the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court dismissed a motion forwarded by Taylor's lawyers asking the court president to withdraw his predecessor's request to shift the trial to The Hague. Taylor's lawyers argue that their client will not get a fair trial there.

The Court dismissed the motion ruling that "at this stage of the proceedings, matters relating to the venue of the Taylor trial are exclusively within the administrative and diplomatic mandate of the president".

The location of Taylor's trial has divided Sierra Leoneans. Some are hungry to see an African president brought to justice on African soil, while others fear that his presence could destabilise the country and even the whole sub-region.

Also this week the head of the Nigerian Armed Forces, General Martin-Luther Agwai said the Nigerian army would give evidence against Taylor if invited to do so by the Special Court.

Associated Press

Saturday, 3 Jun 2006

Charles Taylor could serve prison sentence in Sweden

Swedish lawmakers have approved a law that makes it possible for the Scandinavian country to imprison former Liberian president Charles Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes by a UN-backed tribunal, government officials said on Thursday.

The decision by the Swedish parliament could remove a major obstacle that has stalled the former warlord's trial in Sierra Leone. Foreign Ministry officials said Sweden had not yet officially decided whether it would accept a request to take in Taylor. Such a step would need final approval from the government.

The UN-backed court asked the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court to host the trial, fearing Taylor's trial in Africa might revive regional instability. The Netherlands has agreed to host the trial -- on condition a third country agrees to jail Taylor if he is convicted.

Sweden had previously rejected the request to take Taylor, saying Parliament had not approved a special agreement with the Sierra Leone court that would make it possible for him to serve a possible sentence in the Scandinavian country.

Besides Sweden, Denmark and Austria had previously rejected requests to accept him.

The legal obstacle in Sweden was removed on Wednesday when Parliament approved such an agreement with the court that takes effect on July 1.

Kerstin Olsson, a spokeswoman for Sweden's foreign minister, referred to Sweden's previous rejection of the request, but would not say whether the government would alter its stance because of Parliament's decision.

"The government has said no," Olsson said. "No new decision has been taken since the law was approved."

Taylor faces 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from his alleged backing of Sierra Leonean rebels who terrorized victims by chopping off their arms, legs, ears and lips.

He was transferred into the custody of the Sierra Leone court in late March from exile in Nigeria. While the charges refer only to Sierra Leone, Taylor is accused of fomenting violence in his homeland and elsewhere in West Africa as well.

In London on Wednesday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told reporters that holding the trial in west Africa would be risky for her fledgling government.

Taylor still has supporters in Liberia, some of whom won seats in parliament in elections held at the same time as the presidential vote she won last year.

Sweden has agreements on jailing war criminals with other UN courts.

Former Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic is serving an 11-year sentence in a high-security prison west of Stockholm.

Miroslav Deronjic, the top wartime authority in the eastern Bosnian city of Bratunac during the 1992-1995 Bosnian War, was transferred from The Hague to Sweden last year, and is serving a 10-year sentence for ordering the destruction of a Muslim village. This story has been viewed 236 times.

Associated Press

Thursday, 1 June 2006

Libya's Gadhafi critical of hand over

TRIPOLI, Libya - Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi expressed criticism Thursday for the handing over of exiled Liberian President Charles Taylor to the United Nations on war crimes charges.

Speaking at the opening of a one-day summit of the 23 regional countries, Gadhafi did not name Nigeria - the country that delivered Taylor to the U.N. - but he said the decision to surrender the Liberian had tarnished Africa's image.

"Handing over former Liberian President Charles Taylor to an international court is an immoral act and has harmed Africa," Gadhafi said, adding that his view did not mean he supported Taylor's policies.

"Taylor should have stayed in Nigeria according to the agreement under which he stepped down," Gadhafi said, who has recently improved once-strained ties with the United States and other Western nations.

Taylor, Liberia's president in 1997-2003, was arrested in April after fleeing the Nigerian home where he was being kept under house arrest. He had gone to Nigeria at the invitation of its government after international pressure forced him to step down in 2003.

The Nigerian authorities handed him over to the U.N.-special court in Sierra Leone, where he has been charged on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's civil war.

The Libyan leader accused foreign powers of instigating Africa's disputes, and urged the continent's leaders to settle their quarrels.

"The group should overcome disputes as they are a challenge that leads to instability and the impediment of development," Gadhafi said.

"All the disputes on the African continent are moved by foreign fingers," he added, without naming the foreign countries.

Despite the strong words, Gadhafi has drawn closer to the outside world and has renounced weapons of mass destruction and agreed to cooperate in the hunt for terrorists.

Rewarding those action, the U.S. said it would restore full diplomatic relations with Libya and remove it from a list of terrorism sponsors.

Voice of America

Friday, 2 June 2006

Sweden Passes Law Allowing Charles Taylor Imprisonment

By Joe De Capua

If former Liberian leader Charles Taylor is convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity, there's a good chance he would serve his sentence in a Swedish prison. That's because, this week, the Swedish parliament passed a law making it possible for him to serve time there. However, no formal decision by the Swedish government has been announced yet. Many countries had rejected requests to accept Taylor, as did Sweden prior to passing the new law.

David Crane is the former chief prosecutor at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and the man who signed Charles Taylor's indictment. In Washington, he spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about the new Swedish law.

"The Swedes have been great supporters of international criminal law both at The Hague, as well as in West Africa. I had a great relationship with their foreign office and their justice ministry."

Immigration and domestic laws have played a role in many countries rejecting a request to imprison Taylor should he be convicted. But does politics also play a role? Crane says, "It's both of those situations...certainly in any of these situations politics does play a role...so, it's a matter of politics, practicality and the law."

As for the likelihood that Taylor will be both tried and possibly imprisoned outside of Africa, Crane says, "The key is to seek justice for the people of West Africa and to have fair trial and to look all the facts. And should he be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to have him incarcerated in a place that is safe and that he can also be protected... It's both sides of the coin... again we want to show that the law is fair...I have a personal feeling that it would be nice to see him tried in West Africa...the law has brought down the most powerful warlord in Africa and humbled him before the law. And I think that is a great signal to the people of Africa that their lives matter."

Toward Freedom

<http://towardfreedom.com/home>

Monday, 5 June 2006

Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone: Was it More Than Money?

Written by Rene Wadlow

Charles Taylor has been indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in violation of international humanitarian law. However, the trial has not yet been held, and it will be of interest to see what elements of proof will be presented.

Charles Taylor's direct participation in war crimes was in Liberia where he still has too many supporters for a trial to be held there. His actions in Sierra Leone were indirect in support of insurgencies whose crimes were many. But it is not clear what control Taylor had over their actions.

The two main insurgents, Foday Sankoh and his deputy, Sam "Mosquito" Bocharie, that Taylor is thought to have armed and advised, have died. They can neither be tried nor asked to testify against Taylor. Three persons, including a US citizen, have been arrested in Sierra Leone for plotting to spring Taylor from jail. These are probably not the only persons promised funds to get Taylor out. Thus, we may be some way from hearing the evidence against Taylor.

Taylor's support for Foday Sankoh and his Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was certainly well rewarded in money. The "Blood Diamond" trade as it was called flowed from the diamond fields held by the RUF through Liberia to Europe, Israel and the Far East. Taylor, nicknamed "Superglue" was able to skim off money from everything he touched. There is little doubt that Taylor "got a cut" from the flow out of diamonds and the flow in of arms. He added Sierra Leone timber to his vast timber exports he controlled in Liberia.

There are currently two unanswered questions: How much did Charles Taylor advise on the strategies of the insurgency in Sierra Leone? Were the insurgencies in Sierra Leone and Liberia part of a wider program of destabilization of West Africa —perhaps in the interest of Libya? Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh had been together in revolutionary training camps in Libya after Charles Taylor escaped from jail in the USA. How long they stayed together in Libya and what they learned in the camps has not yet been established. What is known is that Foday Sankoh, who had been a professional soldier in Sierra Leone, was with Taylor when Taylor began his attack on Liberia from a base in the Ivory Coast on Christmas Eve 1989.

Foday Sankoh stayed with Taylor while Taylor's troops advanced toward Monrovia, but Taylor could not take Monrovia on his first try being blocked by West African peacekeeping forces. Taylor withdrew to areas he held and developed his timber export business. Sankoh, perhaps less interested in making money than in gaining power brought together a small armed force and in 1991 attacked Sierra Leone from Liberia.

Liberia and Sierra Leone had similar social structures, and the military insurgencies were carried out in the same way. Was Taylor part of the planning for the attack on Sierra Leone? Was there a master strategist in Libya who had trained and advised both Sankoh

and Taylor? Conspiracy theories grow quickly on tropical forest soil, but they are not necessarily false.

Sierra Leone like Liberia had been founded by freed slaves. Liberia's founders had been for the most part household slaves or artisans in the northeast states of the USA before being sent to Africa. Many could read and write and had participated in a "developed" country. Sierra Leone's founders were recently freed slaves who were aboard ships taking them from Africa to the West Indies. The slave ships were stopped by the British Navy who controlled the West African coast. There were also slaves freed from slave forts along the coast who were waiting for ships. Although there were a few slaves from Canada and Jamaica, most of the freed slaves were not more educated than the tribes of Sierra Leone's interior. They, nevertheless, reproduced the same pattern as Liberia: a coastal, detribalized group who took up trade and looked down upon the tribes of the interior. When Sierra Leone developed into a British colony, it was normal that the coastal population was first to benefit from education and joined English firms. The coastal population was also the first to create modern political parties on the eve of independence in 1961.

The Sierra Leone government after independence was even more corrupt than that of Liberia. The Sierra Leone governing class played a "winner take all" game of power while Liberia's was more a "share the wealth among us" pattern. Thus Sierra Leone politics was more brutal, and the power/wealth circle smaller than Liberia's.

As with Charles Taylor, Foday Sankoh had no tribal authority on which to draw. He followed Charles Taylor's lead and established an armed force of "child soldiers" — disenfranchised and impoverished youth for whom Sankoh became "Papa" and Sankoh received son-like devotion on the part of the troops. In return, the troops could loot everything they could carry and rape all the women they could catch.

The badge of belonging to the group was to mutilate: to cut off hands, arms, feet, ears or noses of the defeated or of the ordinary villages they controlled. Such mutilation was both a sign of being part of the "in group" but also made them outcasts from traditional society so they could not be easily integrated. They had to remain loyal to Sankoh. Other insurgencies in Sierra Leone such as the AFRC and the pro-governmental Civil Defence Force learned the same pattern and acted no differently. Thus there are leaders from all these forces who are to be tried for war crimes.

Sierra Leone seems even less able to recover from the years of war than Liberia. The economy destroyed, the society is fragile. The court trials are probably a first but necessary step to move beyond havoc.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 June 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Associated Press 06/02/2006 08:20:51

Trial of ex-Liberian president unlikely to go ahead this year

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone _ Former Liberian President Charles Taylor's defense team has some reading to do before his war crimes trial begins _ 32,000 pages of documents and witness statements compiled by prosecutors. That gives them plenty to do while officials work out where the trial will be held and where the accused war lord might be jailed if convicted. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the joint Sierra Leone-U.N. tribunal want the trial held outside of West Africa because of security concerns. The Netherlands has agreed to host it, but only if Taylor leaves immediately after _ convicted or not.

Associated Press 06.01.2006, 01:16 PM

Sweden OKs Law to Take Liberia's Taylor

By KARL RITTER

Swedish lawmakers have approved a law that makes it possible for the Scandinavian country to imprison former Liberian President Charles Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes by a U.N.-backed tribunal, government officials said Thursday. The decision by the Swedish Parliament could remove a major obstacle that has stalled the former African warlord's trial in Sierra Leone. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nina Ersman said Sweden had not yet officially decided whether it would accept a request to take in Taylor. Such a step would need final approval from the government.

International Clips on West Africa

SIERRA LEONE: Decision on Taylor trial venue rests with head of Special Court

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

FREETOWN, 1 Jun 2006 (IRIN) - The new president of the UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, Justice George Gelaga King, is expected in the coming days to make the final call on whether to try former Liberian president Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone or The Hague in the Netherlands. Taylor faces charges of war crimes in Sierra Leone including murder; rape and providing financial support for Sierra Leone rebel fighters who terrorised civilians, hacking off their hands and feet.

COTE D IVOIRE: Warring factions agree on next week start date for disarmament programme

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

ABIDJAN , 1 Jun 2006 (IRIN) - Leaders of the two sides in Cote d'Ivoire's conflict, government forces and rebel fighters, on Thursday agreed to start disarmament and dismantlement of pro-government militias next week, in what is the first step towards handing in weapons and ending a four-year crisis.

Local Media - Newspapers

UK Supports Lifting of Sanctions on Liberia

(Heritage)

- Britain's Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Ben said that his government was supportive of calls to lift sanctions on Liberia. Mr. Ben made the declaration when he met with visiting Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Liberian Government Reaffirms Commitment to Press Freedom

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The Liberian Government Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to press freedom, saying it sees the press as a pillar of democracy and will not sanction any form of violence or extra judicial actions against the Liberian media.
- Information Minister Johnny McClain cited the leadership of the Press Union of Liberia to a meeting on 2 June to discuss the Union's complaints regarding the abuse of journalists by State security personnel.

Deputy Special Representative Identifies Job Creation as Liberia's Top Priority

(The Analyst and The Informer)

- Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General Jordan Ryan said that the creation of jobs remained Liberia's top priority as the country strives to rebuild its economy. Mr. Ryan told the UN News Service Tuesday that the need for employment could be met by repairing Liberia's shattered infrastructures.

Supreme Court Placed Stay Order on Ja'neh' Induction

(The News and Heritage)

- The Supreme Court of Liberia on Thursday issued a stay order on all proceedings leading to the induction of Kabinah Ja'neh as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.
- The order followed a petition for a writ of prohibition filed by River Gee former Senator Nathaniel Williams and human rights advocate Melvin Page against Cllr. Ja'neh. Cllr. Ja'neh has been requested to appear before the Court to show why the petition against him should be dismissed.

HIV/AIDS on the Rise in Grand Bassa County

(Heritage)

- An HIV/AIDS counselor at the Liberian Government Hospital in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, said the months of January through May have shown increases in the rate of HIV/AIDS in the county. Ms. Emma Clarke said a lot of

women have been tested positive with the AIDS virus. She said five females and two males were tested positive in May alone.

Sweden Agrees to Imprison Taylor If Convicted

(New Democrat and The Informer)

- Swedish lawmakers have approved a law that makes it possible for the Country to imprison former President Charles Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes by a UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Saudi Prince Arrives in Liberia Today

(Daily Observer)

- Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul-Aziz Alsaud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will today visit Liberia as guest of the Liberian Government to discuss the prospects for Saudi investment in the country.

GTZ Completes Road Project in Lofa County

(The Analyst and The Evidence)

- With the help of the German Development Cooperation (BMZ), UNHCR and UNDP, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) rehabilitated a 67 kilometers road connecting Voinjama to Kolahun and Foyah in Lofa County.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

Lawmakers Debate Petition for War Crimes Court

- The House of Representatives yesterday debated a petition which seeks to establish a war crimes court for Liberia. A civil society group, the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court for Liberia had petitioned the Legislature to pass a law to create such a court to prosecute alleged war criminals.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government Denies Sanctioning Attacks of Journalists

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Saudi Prince Visits Liberia Today

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Human Rights Defender Says Rubber Plantation Runs Holding Cells

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, the Center for the Protection of Human Rights Executive Director Dempster Brown said that the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company was unlawfully running detention centers in its concession areas where it detains suspects for several days without trial.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Prosecution Accused of Delaying Armed Robbery Cases

- Criminal Court Judge Saykahjepo Wollo said that prosecuting lawyers were delaying the trial of cases involving armed robbers, adding that the delays are caused by the lawyers' constant absence from court proceedings. Judge Wollo told journalists yesterday that he would hold the Justice Ministry in contempt if State prosecutors fail to appear in court in the future.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 June 2006

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International Clips on Liberia

Oxford Analytica (UK) 06/02/2006

Liberia: Challenges remain for president's bold plan

EVENT: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's "First 150 Day Action Plan" is due to be completed on June 30.

SIGNIFICANCE: The democratically elected Johnson Sirleaf administration has given itself until June 30 to achieve wide-ranging reforms in the security, economy, infrastructure and governance sectors. However, Monrovia's commitment to end the degenerative status quo risks medium-term destabilization of still powerful domestic interest groups. ANALYSIS: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was inaugurated in January, inherited a country devastated by a decade of military rule, 14 years of intermittent civil war and then 27 months of transitional governance by combatant parties. Capitalizing on solid support from Western governments and development agencies, Africa's first elected female president announced a radical reform programme in mid-April.

International Clips on West Africa

UN approves Ivory Coast peacekeeper reinforcements

By Irwin Arieff

UNITED NATIONS, June 2 (Reuters) - The Security Council on Friday approved an extra 1,500 U.N. peacekeepers for Ivory Coast, boosting by 20 percent the force supporting a shaky peace deal in the restive West African nation. About 7,000 U.N. soldiers and 700 international police officers, working with 4,000 French troops, are now in Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, keeping the peace three years after a civil war that split the country into a government-run south and a rebel-held north.

Amputees Blast SLPP Government for Not Implementing the TRC Commission

By Santigie Kamara

Jun 01, 2006 (Standard Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Amputees of the Grafton Amputee Camp have expressed screaming dismay over the manner in which the SLPP government is dragging its feet over the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report. They maintained to this press that, the provision made in the TRC report is yet to be implemented as most of them cannot have a square meal a day.

Local Media - Newspapers

Saudi Prince Donates US\$2 Million for Housing

(National Chronicle)

- Prince Alwaleed Bin Alsaud Abdul Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Friday donated US\$2 million to the Liberian government for the construction of housing for low income earners.
- Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) Managing Director Harry Greaves disclosed news of the donation at a reception held at the Executive Mansion in honor of the Saudi leader. Prince Abdul Aziz expressed his Government's commitment to help Liberia in its post-war reconstruction efforts.

Taylor Writes Secretary-General on Injustice to Liberia

(National Chronicle)

- *National Chronicle* continued with a public relations stunt in which it claimed to be recounting the path of "injustice" committed by the United Nations against Liberia. To back its claim, the Paper published a letter dated 29 October 2001 written to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan by Liberian President Charles Taylor outlining instances of injustice against the country.

President Sirleaf Holds Talks with Visiting U.S. Military Delegation

(National Chronicle)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on Friday held discussions with a visiting United States military delegation at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. The discussions were centered on the building of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).
- Headed by General James L. Jones of the US Marine Corps, the delegation disclosed that a team of US military high command will arrive in the country shortly to assist in the training of the new AFL.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Seeks Spain's Support to Lift Sanction on Liberia

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has requested Spain to help to advocate the lifting of sanctions on Liberia.
- President Johnson-Sirleaf also told a visiting Spanish government delegation yesterday that its visit to Liberia demonstrated that Spain has confidence in the democratic processes in the country.
- The delegation's head, Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Bernardino Leon said that his country was monitoring developments in Liberia and that Spain would work with Liberia to achieve its post-conflict recovery programs.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Visiting Saudi Prince Pledges Support to Rebuilding Liberia

- The visiting Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Alsaud Abdul-Aziz briefed journalists yesterday in Monrovia that his discussion with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf concerned business and his readiness to further assist Liberia in its reconstruction processes.
- The Saudi Prince said that under President Johnson-Sirleaf's leadership, Liberia was well positioned to remain peaceful. He expressed satisfaction over the use of his previous donation of US\$2.1 million.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Speaker Boycotts Program for Visiting Saudi Prince

- House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe yesterday boycotted a program organized in honour of visiting Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Alsaud Abdul-Aziz when protocol officers at the Executive Mansion allegedly failed to offer him and other Lawmakers seat. According to correspondents, the Executive Mansion has apologized to the Lawmakers for the incident.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

U.S. Reiterates Commitment to Security Sector Reform in Liberia

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

U.S. Official Assesses Liberia for African Growth and Opportunity Act

- In a web chat with various African journalists yesterday, United States Assistant Trade Representative for Africa Florizelle Liser said that a roadmap was being developed to enable Liberia to benefit from the African Growth and Opportunity Act, indicating that she was impressed with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's reform efforts to protect workers' rights and repeal the prohibition against strikes in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Elections Commission Says By-Election Signifies New Democracy in Liberia

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, National Elections Commission Chairman James Fromoyan stated that the successful holding of the just-ended Rivercess County by-election indicated that Liberia was building a new democratic culture.
- Chairman Fromoyan said that voters in the area were resilient and turned out in their numbers during the run-off than they did in the first round. Chairman Fromoyan formally declared Ms. Elizabeth Williams from the ruling Unity Party as winner of the by-election.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Libyan Leader Scorns Nigeria for Surrendering Taylor

- Libyan Leader Colonel Moammar Gaddafi said that he was unhappy with the arrest and handover of former President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, describing Nigeria's role in the handover as an unacceptable precedent that posed threat to all African leaders.
- President Gaddafi Thursday told a gathering in Tripoli of Heads of State of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States that sending Mr. Taylor to The Hague would undermine Africa's credibility and seriously harm Nigeria which would no longer be considered a haven.

Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

STAR RADIO *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Wife Slain for Engaging in Extra-Marital Affairs

- A resident of Zinnah Hill Community at GSA Road in Paynesville, Jerry Washington allegedly killed his wife Dorcas Gbeinkpa yesterday on suspicion that she was engaging in extra-marital affairs. The father of the deceased, George Gbeinkpa, told police that there were no misunderstandings between the couple prior to the incident.