

**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:

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The New Citizen

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

ONS Condemns Attacks On UN Personnel

The Office of the National Security ONS has taken great exception the persistent media attacks on United Nations personnel and other members of the international community, an unacceptable develop-

ment which resulted in the physical attack of a member of the UN Assistance team in Kailahun on the 3rd of September by SLPP supporters.

Brigadier Kellie Conteh the head of the ONS said yes-

terday that the National Security Council Coordinating group will not tolerate reckless acts that would give Sierra Leone a bad name and those acts that possess the potential to put Sierra Leone in a bad light

among members of the international community.

The Office of the National Security yesterday insisted that it has no alternative but to recommend the closure of some newspapers that persistently expose the lives of UN personnel to danger as a result of tilted newspaper reportage and vilification campaigns.

Among the people persistently attacked by some

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sections of the print media are Mr. Victor Angelo, the Executive Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and the Elections Consultant attached to the National Electoral Commission, Carlos Velenzuela.

The press release circu-

ONS Condemns

lated by the Office of the National Security reads as follows:

1. The United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) has brought to the attention of the National Security Council Coordinating Group (NSCCG) that a member of the UN Electoral Assistant Team was accosted in Kailahun on the 3rd September 2007 by SLPP supporters. It is believed that this sort of incident is at-

tributable in part to irresponsible reporting by some sections of the media.

2. Such actions on UN Electoral Team Staff put at risk the UN assistance to the electoral process without which the electoral process will be much more difficult, and with the potential to adversely affect its overall success.

3. The National Security Council Coordinating Group (NSCCG) publicly

condemns such actions throughout the Country and call on all political parties to take firm responsibility for the actions of their supporters nationwide and urge that they desist from these irresponsible behaviours.

4. The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) remain resolved to ensure the safety and security of all UN Electoral Team members and those of the National Electoral Commission and will continue to uphold the due process of the law and take very strong measures against violators.

PRESS RELEASE

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4. The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) remains resolved to ensure the safety and security of all UN Electoral Team members and those of the National Electoral Commission and will continue to uphold the due process of the law and take very strong measures against violators.

British government impartial in Sierra Leone's elections

The British Government is pleased to partner Sierra Leone during her 2007 elections. British support includes £4m towards the direct cost of the election, £1.8m for voter education and access to election information, and £1.2m for national and

international observers. Through independent organisations, we have provided training for all political parties in key

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British government impartial in Sierra Leone's elections

From front page

elements of responsible campaigning. We maintain contacts with all parties to observe their campaigns and to encourage them to campaign within the Political Party Code of Conduct.

All British Government support is provided without preference or prejudice towards any political party.

Impartial British support will continue through the second round of the Residential election. At the request of the political parties, we will fund one party agent each of the contesting parties in every polling station. We will also fund a national observer from the National Electoral Watch in every polling station.

The British Government has two aspirations for Sierra Leone's 2007 elections. We support the wish of the people of Sierra Leone to exercise their democratic rights in a free, fair, peaceful and credible election. And we support the wish of the people of Sierra Leone to see, at the end of the electoral process, a government take office that has been democratically elected by the people.

The British Government joins the international community in welcoming the successful and peaceful conclusion of the first round of Sierra Leone's 2007 elections, and urges the people and parties of Sierra Leone to ensure that the 8 September vote is conducted in the same atmosphere of security

and democracy. Speaking on 12 August, British Minister Lord Mark Malloch Brown said:

"I would like to congratulate the people of Sierra Leone on a peaceful and successful polling day and hope that this patience and tolerance will continue,

"I urge party leaders and supporters to maintain this calm and openness throughout the rest of the election process, and to await and prepare to accept the results announced by the NEC." The British Government looks forward to working with the next democratically elected government chosen by the people of Sierra Leone.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 September 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

09/03/2007 14:37:53

Liberia leader sacks maritime boss over fraud claims

MONROVIA, Sept 3 (Reuters) - Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has sacked her maritime chief, head of one of the country's main revenue generating agencies, for lying about allegations of fraud against him, officials said on Monday. Johnson-Sirleaf appointed John Stewart as acting Commissioner of Maritime only last week without realizing he was accused of defrauding clients in the United States while working there as a lawyer, her spokesman said.

09/03/2007 18:38:42

Witness in Liberia coup trial says authorities forced him to lie

MONROVIA, Sept 3, 2007 (AFP) - A key witness in the trial of two alleged coup plotters in Liberia on Monday accused the authorities of having used torture to force him to testify against the defendants. Colonel Andrew Dorbor, who was meant to be one of the prosecution's star witnesses, said Liberian agents in Ivory Coast first tortured him and then promised him a good life outside Liberia to get him to lie in court.

UN official urges action against rape in Liberia

MONROVIA, Sept 3, 2007 (AFP) - The UN special representative to Liberia called Monday for specialised police units to deal with sexual violence against women, a problem that remains widespread in the civil war-ravaged country. Alan Doss was addressing the opening of Liberia's general assembly of church councils in the capital Monrovia, where Vice-President Joseph Boakai also called for action against the problem.

International Clips on West Africa

VOA 04 September 2007

Sierra Leone Police Directed to Step Up Efforts for Presidential Runoff

By Kari Barber, Freetown

Sierra Leone police, charged with maintaining order and preventing violence in the nation's presidential runoff Saturday, say they will act more robustly and with less partisan sway following a directive by President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

09/03/2007 17:18:34

ECOWAS sends ministerial delegation to Sierra Leone

ABUJA, Sept 3, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had sent a ministerial delegation to Sierra Leone in run-up to the second round of presidential elections in the country, said a statement released here on Monday. The statement said the delegation, which arrived in the country on Sept. 1, would appeal to Sierra Leoneans on the need to maintain the enviable reputation the country had just earned through the credible and transparent elections of Aug. 11.

09/03/2007 16:34:20

Commonwealth chief tells Sierra Leone to rise above partisan politics

FREETOWN, Sept 3, 2007 (AFP) - The Commonwealth secretary-general Don McKinnon on Monday called on political players in Sierra Leone to rise above partisan interests after the pre-poll unrest that left scores wounded. The west African country, which only six years ago emerged from one of Africa's most brutal civil wars, goes to the polls on Saturday to pick a new president in an election run-off.

09/04/2007 04:05:00

Cote d'Ivoire's peace process parties to meet in Burkina Faso

ABIDJAN, Sept 3, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) --The main actors involved in Cote d'Ivoire's peace process are expected to meet Tuesday in the Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou to "assess its state of progress," according to a statement issued here Monday by the government of Cote d'Ivoire. "Evaluation and support committee (CEA) will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday Sept. 4 in Ouagadougou," under the chairmanship of President Blaise Compaore, who is the facilitator of the peace process, says the statement signed by Sindou Meite, spokesman for Cote d'Ivoire's prime minister Guillaume Soro.

Local Media – Newspaper

Suspected Murderer Mob to Death in Harbel

(The Analyst and New Democrat)

- Correspondents report that citizens of Cotton Tree in Harbel, Margibi County recently besieged the local police station and set it ablaze in demand of a man who allegedly killed three persons in the area.
- Police had intervened to avoid the lynching of the alleged murder suspect and took him in for safety. The angry mob later overpowered the officers and killed the suspect and set the police station ablaze.

Treason Trial State Witness Claims He was coerced to lie on suspects

(The Inquirer, The Informer, Heritage and The Analyst)

- The retired army colonel who government had identified as a state-witness in the treason trial said he was coerced by state security personnel to make up stories about the alleged coup plot. Colonel Andrew Dorbor who had been in detention for over six months appeared before Criminal Court 'B' on Monday following a writ of habeas corpus filed by defense lawyers.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

State Witness Allegedly Testifies against Accused Under Duress

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

Dismissed Telecom Regulator Chief Rejects Panel's Report

- In an interview, the former head of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), Dr. Saar Abdullai Vandi rejected the LTA Panel report recommending that he be reprimanded for wrongdoing at the LTA and that he was consulting his Lawyer for a possible legal recourse.
- The report alleged Dr. Vandi unilaterally issued a frequency license to the West Africa Telecommunications and solicited US\$300,000 from the Company for due diligence.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

President Sacks Controversial Maritime Bureau Chief

- An Executive Mansion statement said that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf yesterday dismissed Deputy Maritime Commissioner Cllr. John Stewart less than 24 hours after he welcomed President Sirleaf's decision to halt his nomination as Commissioner proper. Cllr. Stewart had told a news conference that the President's decision was prudent.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

President Criticizes Documents on Preference for Liberian Businesses

- Speaking at a function of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf criticized the documents on public procurement regulations on the margin preference for Liberian and domestic businesses, noting that the document lacked coherence and fails to show the difference between Liberian and domestic businesses and called for another technical discussion on the regulations.
- However, the President declared that the Government fully endorsed the regulation intended to empower Liberian businesses but stressed the need for Liberian entrepreneurs to be credit-worthy, disciplined and competitive.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

Outgoing Commerce Minister Calls on Liberians to Takeover the Economy

- In her keynote address to launch a business promotion strategy for Liberian businesses, the outgoing Commerce Minister Olubankie King Akerele lamented that the Liberian economy is in the hands of foreigners and wanted Liberians to take control of their own economy.
- Minister Akerele said that the margin of preference for Liberian and domestic businesses is an initiative for meaningful and effective participation of Liberians in their economy emphasizing that universally, every nation must ensure that its nationals get the opportunities its Country can provide.

(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)

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

Mob Set Police Station Ablaze in Margibi County

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.

Monsters and Critics.com

Tuesday 4 September 2007

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/africa/news/printer_1351564.php

Liberia hears of coup plot against Johnson-Sirleaf government

By Elise A Zoker

Monrovia - A former officer in the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has told a court that he had been forced to testify against two defendants facing treason charges over an alleged coup plot. Retired former colonel Andrew Dorbor is a key witness in the ongoing treason trial of Liberia's former army chief Charles Julu and Georges Koukou, its former speaker of parliament.

The two were arrested in July on charges of plotting to overthrow the government of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who was elected in 2005 to lead the country with a history of coups, coup plots and civil war.

Dorbor made the claim in court when their trial resumed on Monday, news reports said Tuesday. He had told the court that he was approached by a Liberian security officer and Ivorian security approached him while visiting his daughter in Ivory Coast.

He claimed he was taken into custody and held for four months during which he was given the names of 32 Liberians who were to be implicated in 'what should be a plan to overthrow the government.'

He told the court that the security officers gave him the telephone numbers of Julu, Koukou and others. Dorbor claimed to have said he signed a statement under duress and said he had been promised money in exchange for testifying against the two.

Dorbor, who has been in detention in Liberia since February, was initially called as a state witness in the case, but was later arrested and charged as a co-conspirator with Julu and Koukou. Julu was implicated in a failed coup in 1994 and was the head of the presidential guards under former president Samuel Doe.

Koukou was a stalwart of Johnson-Sirleaf's predecessor Charles Taylor's rebel movement, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia before becoming transitional speaker in 2004.

Under Liberian law the two men could face the death penalty or life in prison, if convicted of treason, a first degree felony.

Voice of America

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

Liberia: Would-Be State Witness Implicates Government in Treason Trial

By James Butty
Washington, D.C.

In July this year, the Liberian government arrested General Charles Julu and George Koukou, the former speaker of the Interim National Assembly of Liberia and charged them with plotting to overthrow the government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Now the government's star witness, retired Colonel Andrew Dorbor, appeared in court this week saying the government forced him to be part of a concocted coup plot.

He said government agents tortured him into confess the names of alleged coup plotters. Colonel Dorbor also said government officials promised him money and what he called a package from President Sirleaf in exchange for his cooperation. So what happens now to the case against the so-called coup plotters?

Lawrence Bropleh is Liberia's minister of information. He told VOA that the government's treason case remains strong.

"What the government has said to the world and to the Liberian people several months ago regarding this planned subversion that a few people, including General Charles Julue and others have planned is real. Colonel Andrew Dorbor had been cooperating with our National Security Agency and had shared information that we have proved is right and fair. It is unfortunate now that he will say the contrary. But the evidence would be proven in court," he said.

Colonel Dorbor told the court Monday that the government forced him to sign a document saying he was a state witness. But Bropleh said the government of President Sirleaf adheres to democratic principles and does not torture people.

"The government of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is not a government that has a repetitive behavior as previous governments. We do not coerce anyone to sign documents against their will. This government ascribes to the principles of democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and I can tell you emphatically that this government did not force Col. Andrew Dorbor to say anything against his will. It is unfortunate that he has now changed his statement. But the fact of the matter remains that we were able, with our own intelligence and that of the gathering capacity of our colleagues in the Ivory Coast to uncover a plan to subvert the peace in Liberia," Bropleh said.

He said the arrest of the so-called coup plotters was not based solely on information provided by Col. Dorbor.

"The arrests of these persons were not made principally on the statement of Col. Dorbor. There were gatherings of intelligence, verification of evidence, and so there is a kaleidoscope of information and evidence that has come forward that the government is going to use in this prosecution. Col. Dorbor's statement can carry water or it may not carry water. It is unfortunate that he's now changed his statement after all these months of believing and sharing with us that

he was trying to help his country by sharing with us that there were those who wanted to subvert the peace,” he said.

Bropleh said the Liberian government has strong evidence against the alleged coup plotters.

He also said the government did not immediately react to Col. Dorbor’s testimony because the government believes its actions are what the minister called honest and fair.

“If you had not contacted me I was not going to speak on this because we know that what the government has done is honest, and it’s fair,” he said.

Just this week, the Liberian government was forced to react to criticism of President Sirleaf’s nomination of a controversial Washington-based lawyer to be the commissioner of the country’s maritime bureau.

Bropleh said these likely political and judicial missteps by the Sirleaf government are part of rebuilding a country after years of war.

“When you’re rebuilding a nation after 14 years of civil war, what I can tell you is that we don’t have a perfect judicial system, but in the absence of a perfect judicial system, we are striving to reform the judiciary and to create judges and lawyers that will ascribe to the principle of democracy and defend the constitution. What we have shared with the public regarding the treason trial is true, it’s right, we will try it in the courts system. If the court system says these people are not guilty, the government will respect that; if they are found guilty, they’ll face the full weight of the law,” Bropleh said.