

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 of:

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248

Table of Contents

Sierra Leone Media

I Advised Kabbah of May 25 Coup...Norman Tells Special Court <i>For di People</i>	Page 3
Norman Raps Special Court <i>Awareness Times</i>	Pages 4-5
Big Boost for Norman’s Defence as...British General Breezes in to Testify <i>Christian Monitor</i>	Page 6
At Special Court – Norman Admits Contributing to the CDF Calendar <i>Awoko</i>	Page 7
“Kabbah Was My Boss” – Hinga Norman <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 8
Norman Denies Giving Command to Kamajors <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 9
Big Quarrel at Special Court <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 10
51 Judges Visit Special Court <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 11
International Media	
Norman Defends Himself <i>International Justice Tribune</i>	Page 12
Taylor’s Issue is Beyond Liberia, Says Nominated Solicitor-General <i>LiberianTimes.com</i>	Pages 13-14
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 Feb 2006 <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 15-20
Security Council Authorizes Temporary Redeployment of Military Personnel From UN Mission in Liberia to Cote d’Ivoire Operation <i>BBC</i>	Pages 21-22
New Ringmaster Won’t Let Saddam’s Trial be a Circus <i>Times Online</i>	Pages 23-24

-Norman tells Special Court

SPECIAL COURT indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, under cross examination by the prosecution yesterday told the court of how he had advised President Kabbah on two occasions that a coup was pending but that the president did not take the precautionary measures to prevent its occurrence.

by *SU THORONKA*

Norman revealed that he took a bag to the president as proof of his information and that the bag contained the most important components of weapons needed to deal with such a situation.

"It takes an experienced soldier to know that a machine gun has been made unworkable when the firing pin of the machine gun has been removed," he said.

The former CDF boss further said that before his arrival in Liberia, the presence of Kamajors was already in that country and that arrangements had been made for them to fight alongside Ecomog troops that were to restore the democratic government of President Kabbah.

On the question of child soldiers, Norman informed the court it was difficult to know or determine an un-

der-15 by physical appearance and that he never saw children of that age being actively involved in the war.

"Even if they were involved, it would be the responsibility of their parents and guardians who voluntarily gave them up for initiation into the Kamajor hunters' society," he said.

Norman however agreed with the prosecution that he organized the Kamajors who had arrived at Talia to join Ecomog troops in the restoration of the government of President Kabbah and eventually peace in Sierra Leone. He furthermore said that chiefs who learnt that he was in Talia sent their boys to help Ecomog troops.

As a National Coordinator after giving rudimentary training that was of great benefit, Norman said he will later advise them to go into the land and operate side by side with Ecomog. He however, denied having told the Kamajors to attack a specific

location in the country. He also denied making arrangements for the distribution of arms and ammunition when in Talia.

On the question of food for the fighters, Norman said the chiefdom people made arrangements for fish, cassava, palm oil etc, although occasionally rice was flown from Lungi where general Maxwell Khobe was resident at the time. Before the provision of the satellite phone two months later after he had arrived in Talia in September 1997, Norman said it was very difficult to communicate with the President.

He further said that President Kabbah did not appoint him to command or control the war but to coordinate, and as National coordinator for the hunters, the president did not appoint to him a deputy coordinator, Allieu Kondowa he said was an initiator who later was recognized as the 'High Priest'. That Ecomog was not in-



NORMAN: says his advise was not heeded to

whenever a decision was reached in very severe matters, it was referred to him. He in turn will refer the decision to the war council and based upon the advise of this council, the appropriate disciplinary measure will then be implemented by him.

Norman said as a result of a request he made to

whenever a decision was reached in very severe matters, it was referred to him. He in turn will refer the decision to the war council and based upon the advise of this council, the appropriate disciplinary measure will then be implemented by him. Norman said as a result of a request he made to

Tegloma for future historical purpose in the year 2001 this group printed calendars which had the portrait of the following personalities: Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, then vice president Albert Demby, Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah, Allieu Kondowa as members of the hierarchy of the National Coordinating Committee, and that these calendars were distributed and not sold.

Meanwhile, over fifty judges from Great Britain on Monday visited the Special Court. They were led into the public gallery of the court where they witnessed the trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa who were jointly indicted. The judges were later taken on a conducted tour of the court.

MISC APP 347/05

2005

M.

N0.24

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE (CIVIL JURISDICTION)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ISAAC JONATHAN DECKER
(DECEASED)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER FOR THE

Norman raps Special Court

"President Kabbah ordered Kamajors to attack towns and villages"

By Tom E. Tommy &
Saffia Kabbah

The cross examination of Chief Sam Hinga Norman by the Prosecution started yesterday at the Special Court for Sierra Leone as he continued with his defence testimony. He was led in evidence by

Prosecuting Lawyer, Kevin Tervener. He finished his defence cross examination last Friday.

This first session however was focused on how and from whom the Kamajors received their orders from be it directly or indirectly. Answering to questions from the Prosecution, Chief

Hinga Norman disclosed that even though the President after his overthrow went to seek refuge in Guinea, he was still the head of the CDF War Council according to the hierarchical formation of the council.

President Kabbah, Chief Norman explained, while in

exile in Guinea, ordered the hunters to go attack junta/AFRC forces and possibly remove them from where ever they were occupying as it was the Junta/AFRC alliance that overthrew him from power.

According to Chief Norman, even though he was the National

Coordinator, he did not have the power to order the attack on towns and villages but that it was the President as the head of the War Council with the advice of the National Coordinating Committee that had the power to order such attacks whenever it was deemed necessary.

Chief Norman went on to quote President Kabbah as having said "generally and publicly" that, "even if I come back and meet fowls in the country, I will rule them", noting that the President had ordered all Sierra Leoneans to assist in the restoration of and the

Contd: page 3

Norman raps Special Court

From front page

reinstatement of his government.

Also, he said the President had expressed the need to increase the number of Kamajors from their estimated 250,000, noting that not all of this number went to the war front. He said that among this number there were drivers, health carers etc. According to Chief Norman, the need to increase the number of the Kamajors came as an instruction from the President through a document he said he received from the President while in exile. He noted that the document basically instructed that the Kamajors' number be increased in size so that they will be able to capture the towns and villages that were occupied by the Junta/AFRC forces.

The President, he went on, was the author of the document, which he maintained, "So in real sense, he ordered the increase in the number of the Kamajor fighters." During the war, before the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), the Kamajors Chief Norman noted, were mobilised by chiefs to protect their

homelands when the government was initially overthrown. He explained that the services of the Kamajors were officially requested to assist in the restoration of democracy and the reinstatement of the overthrown government by the President.

Chief Norman went on to assert that being that the President was the Defence Minister, he was directly responsible for the state's security and that as Deputy Defence Minister, he was only responsible for coordinating with ECOMOG for the hunters to assist them.

He told the court that he did not personally order attacks on specific towns and villages but that he did so on the orders from the head of the War Council.

He also pointed out that it was not his responsibility to give orders and also that he hadn't the power to use the hunters either independently or generally according to the organisational structure of the CDF War Council organogram.

The Kamajors, he said, were getting weapons from ECOMOG and General Maxwell Khobe. He also disclosed that at a certain period, they were told by General Khobe that a

consignment of weapons had arrived at Lungi, which according to him, was from the government in exile through President Kabbah's order to ECOMOG in Liberia.

He said that he went to the scene at Lungi and saw the consignment himself.

This consignment of weapons, he explained, was later distributed to every ECOMOG and Kamajor base nationwide.

He went on to tender a calendar which he claimed the CDF had printed, on which were the photos of all the Heads and Directors of the various arms of the CDF. This was later identified as exhibit 112.

He said that Kamajors in the field were controlled by their different commanders and not by him. He also disclosed that the name CDF came about after he read a book titled CDF which according to him, the CDF is the merger of the various hunter groups in the country and it included the Kapras, Gbethis, Tamaboros, Donsos and Poro society members.

"All these groups came together to form the CDF, with the sole objective of assisting in the restoration of the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone

Big Boost for Norman's Defence as..

British General Breezes in to Testify

Major General David Richards, commander of British Forces in Sierra Leone in 2000 is due in a couple of weeks to testify in Chief Norman's defence in the ongoing Civil Defence Forces trial at Special Court.

Major General Richards was at the heart of the efforts at reinstating peace in Sierra Leone during the war years and worked closely then with the CDF of which Sam Norman was coordinator. He is among the group of In-

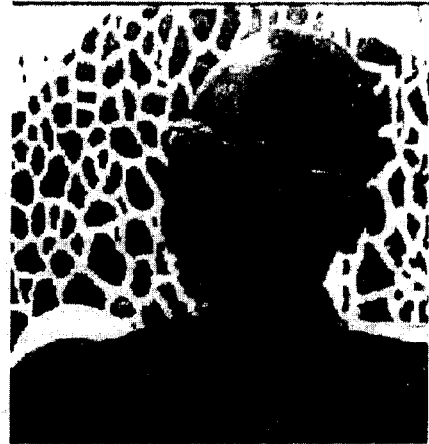
ternational operatives in Sierra Leone during the cataclysmic years that saw the deposition of the democratic government of Tejan Kabbah in 1997 and 1999 and the resto-

ration of peace in 2000.

The group include former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold and John Hiram the former American Ambassador.

This group it is believed feel strongly about the detention and trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and are willing to testify about their knowledge of the CDF, its formation and operations at the time of war and the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone.

Peter Penfold is due to testify this week according to court sources after Chief Norman concludes his testimony.



Chief Sam Hinga Norman

Major General David Richards has just been appointed head of the newly instituted 3000 strong British force to Afghanistan.

At Special Court

Norman admits contributing to the CDF calendar

By Betty Milton

During cross examination by Kevin Taverner on behalf of the prosecution, the National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) Chief Samuel Hinga Norman admitted that he contributed to the publishing of the calendar of the CDF for 2001.

The witness said at the time of the publication of the calendar he was still the National Coordinator of the CDF and therefore contributed towards it. He maintained that this calendar came as a result of a request

he [Norman] made to the Tegroma organization in the United State of America for future historical purpose for the calendar to be produced and distributed free.

One of the purposes of the calendar, which was earlier tendered as an exhibit, was for people who contributed to the CDF in their fight to restore democracy in the country and reinstating the elected government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

The witness further stated that some of the

information on the calendar were supplied by him and some they got from individuals and the Director of Personnel.

Answering to the question of the role of the War Council, Chief Norman said the Council was there to advise him as to matters of discipline, noting that he was not responsible for the discipline of the Kamajors as there was a Disciplinary Committee. "When it comes to matter of punishment", Chief Norman said, it was

directed to him who in turn referred the matter to the War Council for advice as to what decision to take.

Chief Norman denied ever being ordered by President [Kabbah] to kill civilians or capture soldiers or ever ordered to do any of the crimes which he now stands indicted.

The witness further said the CDF were under the control of ECOMOG troops in Liberia, and after their training he admonished



National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) Chief Samuel Hinga Norman

Norman admits contributing to the CDF calendar

From Front Page

them that they should go into the land and operate under the command of ECOMOG troops.

Chief Norman was also asked about the allocation of arms and ammunition and also foodstuff to the CDF. To this, he said he never arranged

for arms and food as the chiefdom people made arrangements to supply cassava, garrie, fish salt and palm oil, occasionally bags of rice not more than 10 bags were initially flown from Liberia and later rice was flown by General Khobe to Lungi to assist in the feeding.

“Kabbah was My Boss...”

By Mohamed Kai

The Special Court Indictee,
Chief Sam Hinga Norman
has told the court that dur-

-Hinga Norman

ing the decade long Alhaji Ahmed Tejan
civil conflict, president *Contd. page 2*

“Kabbah was My Boss...”

From front page

Kabbah was his boss and he usually communicate with him from Guinea Conakry.

Chief Norman further disclosed that he arrived at Base Zero in Talia Town in September 1997 and received a satellite phone from the president in November 1997.

“Sometimes, I talked to the president through the satellite phone for instructions and some logistics support”, Norman told the court.

“At Base Zero”, Norman went on, “Kamajors received rudimentary training to fight along side ECOMOG troops to restore the democratically elected government.

He also intimated that after training he used to admonish the Kamajors to adhere to the instructions from the ECOMOG troops and to refrain from indiscriminate killings, civilian intimidations and harassment.

According to him, he also received arms and ammunitions from the late Maxwell Khobe from Liberia and in some circumstances, the Chieftdom authorities would from time to time, provide food in the form of palm oil, salt, cassava, gari, fish and some bags of locally produced rice for his men.

Responding to questions from the prosecution, Norman told the court that he never ordered Kamajors to attack Koribondo or destroy lives and property of civilians as alleged by the prosecution witness.

Norman further stated that the second accused, Moinina Fofanah was a Kamajor initiator based at Base Zero and was referred to as the Kamajor High Priest and Director of the War Council whilst M.S Dumbuya was the Director of Training, adding that, the CDF calendar which the prosecution tendered as an exhibit was produced by an organization based in America called Tegloma.

The trial continues today.

Norman denies giving command to Kamajors

Story: Tanu Jalloh

First accused who testifies in his defence in the ongoing Civil Defense Forces (CDF) trial at the Special Court, Sam Hinga Norman, under cross-examination by Special Court's prosecuting counsel, Kevin Taverner, Monday denied giving command to Kamajors as National Coordinator.

"My appointment as the National Coordinator for CDF by President Kabbah was limited to coordinating and not command or control the war activities of the Kamajors," Norman denied adding that there were battalion

commanders at Talia who gave commands and controls.

He said he had organized the Kamajors for rudimentary training at Talia (Base Zero) and returned them to ECOMOG troops where they would assist the latter.

"After training I would address them (Kamajors) to go and work with ECOMOG under their direction. I have never told them specifically to go and attack anywhere simply because I was a civilian coordinator. I did not arrange for the distribution of weapons at Talia," he testified.

Norman told the court that he had

Cont. page 3

Norman denies giving command to Kamajors

From page 1

only coordinated the Kamajors to join the superior forces (ECOMOG) for further activities. "Men were being trained to be used by ECOMOG whether for

war purposes or otherwise but it was for the restoration of democracy and the elected president and his government," Norman said.

Big quarrel at Special Court

Story:
Tanu
Jalloh

Fracas broke out Monday at the reception of Special Court. The fracas, which lasted about two hours, was as a result of attempts by security guards to stop court visitors including journalists because a battery of Commonwealth judges were supposed to visit the court.

from the United Kingdom who would be visiting the court," a senior security guard told visitors and journalists at the jam-packed reception.

Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) parliamentarian representing Hinga Norman in parliament, Hon John Ngewor Moriba felt deprived

"Gentlemen, we could only provide twenty seats for court's visitors today because we shall be having over fifty judges

and condemned the decision to stop him from entering the Court premises.

"Whenever the motion to renew the mandate of the Special Court comes to parliament, I will personally rally around colleague parliamentarians to make sure it is forestalled," he said in annoyance adding that he intends questioning the Attorney General over the expiration of the mandate of the Special Court.

The Parliamentarian called for the attention of the Registrar of the

Cont. page 3

Big quarrel at Special Court

From page 1

court so that he can ascertain the veracity of the action of the guards at the entrance.

"How can you stop us, as Sierra Leoneans who bore the brunt of the war, from witnessing trials. I come here everyday from 'Four-Mile'. If you are sub humans or sub standard we are not. It is our right to witness trials here and should not be deprived of that

right for the convenience of foreign judges who come around for self purposes," the Member of Parliament said.

He insisted for immediate solutions to the fracas until a certain Special Court worker, with ISS127 identification card, Atiq Ahmed Shaihk intervened but could not convince the already furious crowd to exercise restraint.

Exclusive
7 February 2006

51 Judges Visit Special Court

By Mohamed Kai made a brief visit at the witness the ongoing
Fifty-one judges from the Special Court pre- trial.
United Kingdom yesterday premises in Freetown to *Contd. page 2*

51 Judges Visit Special Court

From front page

On their arrival in Freetown last Saturday, they held several meetings with government authorities as part of the agenda of their visit.

Informed sources at the Special Court intimated this Press that the visit of judges may not be unconnected with a letter Chief Hinga Norman, the CDF Indictee wrote the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

The content of the letter alleged that Chief Sam Hinga Norman explained that the Special Court authorities were not treating him fairly and that some of his fundamental rights were being violated. The letter further states that Chief Norman called on the U.N Secretary General to ensure that he receives fair and honest trial.

In another development, the Special Court has completed the construction of a helipad at its court grounds possibly for security reasons.



Special Court for Sierra Leone : The Defence

Norman defends himself

Article length : 0.4 page

Paris

06 February 2006

Sam Hinga-Norman, 66 years old, the most famous of the defendants effectively on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where other figures from the 1990 civil war have for various reasons been absent, has been on the stand testifying since January 24.

"Chief Norman" was serving as Minister of the Interior when he was arrested on March 10, 2003 [see IJT interview published at the end of 2003] on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Considered by many to be a hero, he fought in the bloody RUF rebellion, coordinating the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) until their victory in 2002. At the time, Norman was a supporter of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was democratically elected in 1996. Norman asked the court to call Kabbah - "my boss, the Minister of Defense and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and the President of Sierra Leone," as Norman insisted on calling him in court - to testify in his trial. Norman reminded the judges that in 1997, four ambassadors had come knocking at his door while he was living in exile in Guinea, according to the Irin agency. An American, a Brit, a Nigerian and the special representative for Sierra Leone brought him to see Kabbah. The diplomats had said that a condition of ECOMOG's support was that Norman had to rally to the president's orders. Norman went on to say that the president had appointed him to head up the CDF that same day. Norman described himself as "the first child soldier" enlisted into the colonial British army in 1954, when he was just 14. Through his testimony, he is attempting to show that not only did he help restore Kabbah to power in 1998, but he also played a decisive role in restoring peace. Peter Penfold, former British high commissioner to Sierra Leone, and high-ranking British officer John Reilly, have allegedly confirmed their intent to testify on Norman's behalf, their lawyers told Awareness Times on January 25.

© Justice Memo - 2006

The LiberianTimes.com

http://www.theliberiantimes.com/article_2006_02_6_2639.html

Taylor's Issue Is Beyond Liberia, Says Nominated Solicitor General

Feb 6, 2006

by J. Cholo Brooks / Liberian Bureau Chief

The newly nominated Solicitor General of Liberia, Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe says the trail of former Liberian leader now exiled in Nigeria, Charles Taylor is beyond Liberia and is more "political than legal."

Appearing before the Senate Joint Committees on Judiciary and Security last week for confirmation proceedings at the Capitol Building, said the issue is "bigger than Liberia" and with political implications in the region that need to be solved by world leaders.

The learned Liberian human rights lawyer also indicated that though failure to bring to justice the former Liberian leader would strengthen impunity in the sub-region, but noted that the final decision could not come from the Liberian Government without consultation.

He said the current Liberian President has made it clear that she would meet regional leaders on the Taylor issue while the United Nations Security Council has ordered the arrest of the exiled president.

Cllr. Gongloe furthered that Mr. Taylor was indicted by the Liberian people or government, but the people of Sierra Leone through the United Nations Special Court, noting, "It is bigger than Liberia; it is a regional issue and with political implications."

He told the lawmakers that when confirm he would ensure the cordial working relations exist between the Ministry of Justice and the human rights community with rigorous implementation of the Liberian constitution.

He said the value of human rights was essential for any government to hold if it must be , adding. "If the government continues to violate human rights, there can be no reconciliation."

He promised that he would uphold the rule of law and protect human rights, saying, "Liberia could not progress unless and until the value of human rights exceeds all other values," Cllr. Gongloe stressed.

In addition, in a report on BBC News, Liberian President Sirleaf said prosecuting her predecessor Charles Taylor is not a priority. The President was responding to calls from a coalition of about 300 African and international civil society groups, calling for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone. Taylor, who is in exile in Nigeria, is accused of backing the notorious RUF rebels in Sierra Leone's 1990s civil war. In her first news conference, she said that that she considers Taylor as a secondary issue.

But, Cllr. Gongloe wrote in his email exchange with Human Rights Watch, September 12, 2005 (<http://hrw.org/backgrounder/africa/liberia0905/3.htm>): However, if the newly elected Liberian government wants democratic institutions and processes to endure, it must address the continuing threat posed by these individuals. A key way to minimize this threat is for the new government and the international community to urgently decide on the most appropriate way to hold accountable perpetrators of serious crimes, including those elected to public office.

About the Author:

J. Cholo Brooks is a Liberian journalist. As a former correspondent for the BBC African Service and currently the manager of local news agency the Global News Network, Brooks brings an intelligent and compassionate view to the latest in Liberian news. Brooks writes exclusively for TheLiberianTimes.com, for which he serves as Liberian Bureau Chief.

J. Cholo Brooks may be contacted at globalnewsn2003@yahoo.com.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 Feb 2006**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Liberian president in Niger for security talks**

NIAMEY, Feb 6, 2006 (AFP) - Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf arrived in Niger on Monday for talks with her counterpart Mamadou Tandja, who heads the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Africa's first female elected head of state was met at Diori Hamani airport in Niamey by Tandja. Sirleaf told reporters on arrival that she was in Niamey to express her gratitude to Tandja for his efforts as head of ECOWAS "towards the return of peace to Liberia."

The two leaders were due to hold talks Monday afternoon before Sirleaf addressed a news conference.

The trip, which is at the invitation of Tandja, is expected to focus on security in the west African region, particularly on the border between Ivory Coast and **Liberia**, according to sources in the Liberian president's office.

02/06/2006 11:27:22

U.N. Security Council authorizes redeployment of infantry company to force in Ivory Coast

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press Writer
Source: English General News

UNITED NATIONS_The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Monday to temporarily redeploy a 200-strong infantry company from Liberia to beef up the U.N. peacekeeping force in Ivory Coast, a much smaller addition than Secretary-General Kofi Annan requested.

Annan wrote to the council on Feb. 1 asking for a battalion of soldiers _ normally about 1,000 troops _ and a U.N. civilian police unit to be sent to Ivory Coast for three months to deal with new attacks in the west African country. But the council only authorized the immediate redeployment of one infantry company until March 31 to provide extra security for U.N. staff and property and other assistance.

International Clips on West Africa**Ivorian riot leaders shrug off UN sanctions threat**

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, Feb 6 (Reuters) - Leaders of last month's fierce anti-U.N. riots in Ivory Coast have shrugged off the sanctions the world body is expected to impose on them on Tuesday, saying the measures will not prevent more street demonstrations.

Youth leaders Charles Ble Goude and Eugene Djue, fiercely loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo, face travel bans and asset freezes after supporters hurled rocks and petrol bombs at U.N. bases in riots last month that left nearly a dozen dead.

The Security Council has approved sanctions on anyone blocking efforts to reunite a country split in two since a brief 2002-03 civil war, but has not yet imposed them on anybody. But under a four-nation proposal, sanctions will take effect on Tuesday against Ble Goude, Djue and a rebel commander accused of human rights abuses unless any Council member objects first.

Some fear the punishment may inflame a volatile situation.

"These sanctions don't intimidate me at all or lessen my fervour for protests," Ble Goude, who heads the "Young Patriots" movement, told Reuters by telephone on Monday. However, he told supporters last week not to react when sanctions become active.

02/05/2006 14:45:20

UN chief for Ivory Coast raises humanitarian concerns

DAKAR, Feb 5, 2006 (AFP) - The head of the United Nations mission in Ivory Coast, Pierre Schori, on Sunday raised concerns about the humanitarian situation in the west of the restive country where some 14,000 people are at risk of starvation after violent clashes drove out aid agencies from the area.

Sierra Leone ex-defence chief denies control over Kamajor militias

FREETOWN, Feb 6, 2006 (AFP) - Sierra Leone's former deputy defence minister Hinga Norman on Monday denied responsibility for the acts of pro-government Kamajor hunter militias who committed atrocities during the country's 10-year civil conflict.

"I was only a civilian coordinator of the Kamajors but never gave orders on how the war was to be coordinated," Norman told the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Local Media – Newspapers

Lawmakers with Tainted Past Should Not Go Free Says EU

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, New Democrat and Liberian Express)

- European Union (EU) Election Observer Mission head Max Van den Berg, told reporters in Monrovia over the weekend that lawmakers with a questionable history from the Liberian civil war and afterward should not be permitted to misuse their immunity provisions to avoid justice for the crimes they allegedly committed.

President Travels to Niger Today

(Daily Observer, New Democrat and Heritage)

- An Executive Mansion press release said yesterday that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf leaves today for Niamey, Niger upon the invitation of President Mamadou Tanja, who is currently the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States.

UN Secretary-General Orders UNMIL to Send Troops to Côte d'Ivoire

(The News, New Democrat and Liberian Express)

- Due to increasing threats against UN personnel in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan recently requested the Security Council to approve a

battalion of UNMIL troops and a police unit for redeployment in Côte d'Ivoire for an initial three month period.

UN Envoy Emphasizes Security Sector Reform

(The News)

- In a recent meeting in Monrovia with International Center for Transitional Justice Senior Associate Alexander Mayer Rieckh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss called for a complete reform of the security sector in Liberia.

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

President Travels to Niger Today

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

European Union Announces 48 Million Euro Assistance to Liberia

- The European Union (EU) over the weekend announced a 48 million Euro assistance package for Liberia.

African Union Differs With EU Recommendations for Liberia

- Reacting to recommendations in the EU 2005 elections report on Liberia, which call for constitutional review in post conflict Liberia to reduce the presidential and legislative terms, the African Union Representative in Liberia Noumou Diakite over the weekend called on the EU to refrain from interfering in Liberian politics.

Pro-Democracy Group Organizes Forum for Lawmakers and Constituents

- The Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI) is expected today to begin a series of interactive fora among lawmakers and residents in eight communities on the Bushrod Island, a suburb of Monrovia.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 Jan 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia's Iron Lady vows iron fist for war-mongers

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Liberia's "Iron Lady", Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who takes office this month as Africa's first elected female president, says she will live up to her nickname if former warlords try to drag her country back into civil war. "They should not be fooled because I am a woman ... I am going to be tough," the 67-year-old former Finance Minister told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday at her Monrovia home. She will be sworn in on Jan. 16.

01/06/2006 11:43:18

Liberian war widows block streets over payments

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Hundreds of widows of soldiers killed in Liberia's civil war blocked roads and lay down in the streets of the capital Monrovia on Friday, bringing traffic to a standstill to press their demands for benefits and pensions.

BBC 06/01/2006

Liberia denies \$30m is 'missing'

Liberia's interim government has challenged a United Nations report alleging that millions of dollars is unaccounted for by its administration. Information Minister C William Allen admitted some discrepancies but said most of the \$30m was being transferred between departments. He said the government was preparing a full response to the allegations.

06/01/2006

Liberian analysts paint dim picture of war-torn country

Monrovia (dpa) - A team put together by Liberian president-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to assess the effects of a 14-year civil war on the country has painted a gloomy picture of the nation's infrastructure, institutions and manpower. The team of 26 committees, one per sector of activity, found regression to be the norm since a democratically-elected president, William Tolbert Jr., was overthrown in a bloody coup in 1980.

International Clips on West Africa

IRISH INDEPENDENT Date: January 06, 2006

Troops now on standby for duty in Sierra Leone

Tom Brady, Security Editor

IRISH peacekeeping troops are on stand-by to deploy in strife-torn Sierra Leone following a reconnaissance mission there in the past week. An 80-strong company of troops was sent to Sierra Leone from the existing battalion in Liberia to check out the safety of routes for convoys into the capital, Freetown.

Local Media – Newspapers

U.S., Nigeria and Ghana Provide VIP Security to Johnson-Sirleaf

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Analyst and The Telegraph)

- A Unity Party press release issued in Monrovia yesterday said that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had seconded a team of security personnel from her security detail at the State Department to Liberia to beef up VIP security protection for President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The press release said that Nigeria and Ghana had also pledged additional security assistance to the new administration.

Transitional Government Provides US\$1 Million for Inauguration

(Heritage, National Chronicle, Poll Watch and The Diary)

- Information Minister William Allen told journalists following a cabinet meeting in Monrovia yesterday that the transitional government had made available US\$1 million instead of the US\$1.3 million earlier requested for the inauguration.

Public Disapproves of UN Travel Ban

(Poll Watch, The Inquirer and The Independent)

- A survey conducted in Monrovia recently by *Poll Watch* revealed that the Liberian public is opposed to the continued imposition of the UN Security Council travel ban because of the new threat it poses to officials of the incoming government, especially lawmakers.

Transitional Government Concerned About Travel Restrictions

(The Inquirer)

- According to Information Minister William Allen, the transitional government yesterday deliberated on the UN travel ban, focusing on how the matter can be resolved.

Interim Legislature Passes Bill for Auditing of Transitional Government

(The News and New Democrat)

- The National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) yesterday passed a binding resolution that empowers the new government to conduct a financial audit of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), which has been accused of corruption.

Shortage of Hotel Rooms for Inaugural Guests

(New Democrat)

- Unity Party sources said yesterday that about 2,000 foreign guests are expected to arrive for the inauguration but that there are far fewer hotel rooms available to accommodate them. Information Minister William has therefore appealed to citizens to help out in the situation.

Newspaper Honors UN Envoy

(Poll Watch, The Diary and The Independent)

- In keeping with an end-of-the-year tradition in the Liberian media, *Poll Watch* today named Special Representative of the Secretary-General Allen Doss as Man of the Year 2005 for "splendidly" superintending the affairs of UNMIL.

Chinese Foreign Minister to Attend Johnson-Sirleaf's Inauguration

(National Chronicle)

- Foreign Minister Thomas Yaya Nimley said in Monrovia yesterday that China's Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will attend Madame Johnson-Sirleaf's inauguration on 16 January.

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

Transitional Government Allots US\$1 Million to Inauguration

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Political Party Official Foresees Danger with a Unity Party House Speaker

- In a press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Assistant Secretary-General Acarous Gray observed that it will be a dangerous precedence to have a Unity Party (UP) candidate or sympathizer elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives, predicting a “rubber stamp organ” if such a person was elected.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

United States Embassy Confirms President Bush’s Wife Will Attend Inauguration

- The wife of United States President George Bush will join other dignitaries, including U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, to attend the inauguration of Madame Johnson-Sirleaf signifying President Bush’s support for the war-torn country, a U.S. Embassy press statement said.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Japan to Donate US\$2.2 million to Fund Children Projects in Liberia

- According to a press release yesterday, the United Nations Children Educational Fund (UNICEF) said that the Government of Japan will provide US\$2.2 million to protect the children of Liberia against malaria and acute respiratory infections.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

Lawmakers Pass Binding Resolution to Audit Transitional Government

- Briefing journalists yesterday, National Transitional Legislative Assembly Executive Committee Chairman Mohammed Sheriff said that the assembly has passed a Resolution authorizing the incoming government to audit the transitional government.

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

Chief Medical Officer Calls for More Subsidies to Run John F. Kennedy Hospital

- In an interview, John F. Kennedy Hospital Chief Medical Officer Samuel Dopoe said that for over four months the government has been unable to subsidize the hospital, negatively impacting the morale of the doctors and other employees.

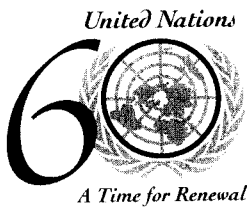
Narcotic Drugs Missing from Court Custody

- According to Gbarnga Magisterial Court sources, over 134 kilograms of marijuana allegedly disappeared from the court. But Gbarnga City Solicitor Prince Jackson described as “mad” journalists that contacted him to verify an allegation that the drug and the suspects had been handed to him following their arrests.

Gardener Discovers Arms in His Cassava Patch in Bong County

- Speaking to journalists yesterday in Gbarnga, Bong County, gardener Isaac Holder said that he found a huge quantity of arms while weeding at his backyard to plant cassava, and has since turned the weapons over to UNMIL Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.



Security Council Meetings Coverage

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

Security Council
5366th Meeting (AM)

SC/8630
6 February 2006

**SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES TEMPORARY REDEPLOYMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL
FROM UN MISSION IN LIBERIA TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE OPERATION**

Resolution 1657 (2006) Adopted Unanimously

The Security Council this morning authorized temporary redeployment of military personnel from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), to provide extra security coverage for United Nations personnel and property, and perform other tasks mandated to UNOCI.

Unanimously adopting its resolution 1657 (2006), the Council expressed serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and of obstacles to peace and national reconciliation from all sides. It authorized redeployment of a maximum of one infantry company from Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire until 31 March 2006, while expressing its intention to review those arrangements by the end of March, in light of the situation on the ground.

That action was taken in response to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 1 February (document S/2006/71), which contained a request for such a transfer, in keeping with resolution 1609 (2005), by which the Council had authorized the Secretary-General to redeploy military and civilian police personnel between the two Missions "to deal with challenges that cannot be handled within the authorized personnel ceiling of either Mission".

The meeting started at 9:50 a.m. and was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Resolution

The complete text of resolution 1657 (2006) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its previous resolutions and statements of its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and in the subregion, in particular its resolutions 1609 (2005) of 24 June 2005, 1626 (2005) of 19 September 2005 and 1652 (2006) of 24 January 2006,

"Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire, and recalling the importance of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

"Taking note of the letter of the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 1 February 2006 (S/2006/71),

(more)

For information media • not an official record • also available at <http://www.un.org/News>

"Recalling that the current mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will expire on 31 March 2006,

"Expressing its serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and of obstacles to the peace and national reconciliation process from all sides,

"Determining that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

"Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to redeploy immediately a maximum of one infantry company from UNMIL to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), until 31 March 2006, in order to provide extra security coverage for United Nations personnel and property, and to perform other tasks mandated to UNOCI, without prejudice to any future decision by the Security Council concerning the renewal of the mandate and level of troops of UNMIL and a further extension of the redeployment mentioned above;

"2. Expresses its intention to review the provisions of paragraph 1 above in 30 days and by 31 March 2006, in light of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and in Liberia;

"3. Expresses its intention to keep under review possible additional redeployments of troops between UNMIL and UNOCI;

"4. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

* * * * *

The Times

February 07, 2006

New ringmaster won't let Saddam's trial be a circus

BY PETER QUAYLE

The Iraqi High Criminal Court has a new judge at its helm and he is not putting up with any nonsense — from the defendants or their lawyers

ON TRIAL for his life, Saddam Hussein is caged but not tamed. Indeed, there is the sawdust scent of the circus ring. The world shows no sign of tiring soon of the novel spectacle of Saddam, the erstwhile dictator, turned truculent courtroom defendant. This besuited but tieless wildman need only get to his feet and raise a menacing fist to startle press and public. But, while he may rattle the bars with all his might, can Saddam shake the sense that justice is to be done?

The Iraqi High Criminal Court has been forged amid a maelstrom of criticism: its legitimacy, procedural fairness and capital punishment have all been denounced since the outset. But, now that proceedings are fitfully under way, the court has the opportunity to prove itself competent and credible.

That the Baghdad court has not recused itself of jurisdiction is hardly surprising. When likewise challenged, the UN's Yugoslav tribunal tested its legitimacy thus: was it established by statute? Was it independent of other branches of government? Was it an embodiment of due process? The Iraqi tribunal can answer thrice yea.

Saddam faces the death penalty. Yet, is the repugnance of a punishment grounds to reproach the trial itself? Geoffrey Robertson, QC, the campaigning human rights barrister and judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, has whimsically suggested that a guilty Saddam might be interned, after the fashion of Napoleon, on his own maximum security St Helena. The Iraqis may well have the rival precedent of Elba more in mind if they fail to impose an irrevocable criminal sentence: Napoleon escaped from exile, marched on Paris and waged war at Waterloo. Saddam himself, jailed in 1964, later escaped and murdered his way to power.

Tellingly, these complaints have not caused critics to be advocates of abolition. They imply that the verdict may be tainted, but not void. Events have instead unfolded to lend weight to other long-held concerns: the court's place and personnel. The court itself is bunkered down in the Baghdad green zone. Yet, two defence lawyers have been assassinated. The appearance of chaos and insecurity that grips Iraq has seemed to impinge upon the court's precincts. Hence the call that the Iraqi court reconvene outside Iraq. This is an invidious demand: appealing to public opinion, the murdered lawyers had refused bodyguards and waived the court's provision to conceal their identities.

The defence also tends towards stunts inside the courtroom, noisily



joining their clients in a foul-mouthed walkout. Yet, in their absence, court-appointed defenders are installed. And the replacement of the self-doubting Rizgar Amin with the no-nonsense Raouf Abdul Rahman as the court's presiding judge has enhanced, not hampered its good order. Even with or without Saddam present — his removal either enforced by the court or vainly self-imposed — justice is inexorable.

To now reconfigure or remove the court outside Iraq would be to signal a surrender to anarchy. It would also mean that the tribunal would likely slip into the hands of those who thought it should anyway be in their grip: international criminal lawyers. The Iraqi court is easily elided with Nuremberg and the UN's tribunals that set about prosecuting past genocidal tyrants. Yet, the trial of Saddam Hussein and his henchmen is strangely unprecedented. No direct progeny of Nuremberg, it is a national, not international, court. Saddam is that unlikeliest of things — a former despot to be fairly tried by his peers.

The international criminal legal order is intended to have an inbuilt preference for such parochial solutions. The International Criminal Court can exercise its jurisdiction only when local courts — at the scene of the crime or home to the criminal — are “unwilling or unable” to prosecute. But for those who wish The Hague to hold a monopoly on justice, local trials are frustrating sideshows. Unwelcome examples of self-reliance and competing competence, they sway the fragile structure that international criminal law campaigners have struggled to construct.

At this stage Saddam is news, not his crimes. Nor his victims. Painful and telling testimony is summoned off newspaper front pages by a timely outburst or shenanigans. Yet, this should not last. Slobodan Milosevic, interminably on trial in The Hague, was once able to convene the world's media in his courtroom. No longer — save, in time, for the verdict. For all his gusty defiance, Saddam is on trial in a criminal courtroom recognisable to everyday Iraqis. He noisily demands special treatment. Instead, he enjoys fundamental rights never known to his political victims in a setting that holds on to the heritage of Iraq's ordinary criminal courts.

The Iraqi tribunal is damned to be, at times, an unsatisfactory sight: international criminal law, whenever and wherever practised, has never contented the historic expectations it creates. Lawyers complain of human rights abbreviated. Critics of policy would sideline the Iraqis. However, this leaves one incontrovertible common cause: that Saddam best be put on trial for his crimes. Recently released Cabinet papers remind us that Churchill wanted Hitler summarily executed. A fair trial, he said, would be a “farce”. The trial of Saddam is no farce and is in earnest. Its parameters could be endlessly reset but a start had to come: perfect is the enemy of the good. The trial of Saddam is good and getting better.

The author is legal adviser to the Civil Division European Office of the US Department of Justice. This is a personal view.

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Ltd.

This service is provided on Times Newspapers' **standard Terms and Conditions**. Please read our **Privacy Policy**. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from The Times, visit the **Syndication website**.