

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



A battery of old cannons stands watch in front of the police barracks at Kingtom.

**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, 7 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Concord Times  
Wednesday, 7 March 2007

# Chief Norman's remains arrive today

By Ibrahim Seibure

The body of Chief Hinga Norman, who died mysteriously in the custody of the UN-

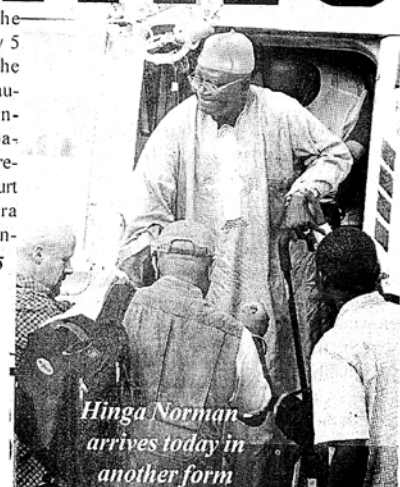
Sierra Leone Special Court over a week ago, will arrive today from Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Norman had been in the detention of the Court for four years. He died after what the Court described as a "routine" operation on his hip in a Senegalese military hospital. Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo described the operation as "successful" but sources say Mr. Norman died bleeding profusely.

An autopsy was con-

ducted on the body Monday 5 March and the result of the autopsy - conducted by pathologists representing the Court and the Sierra Leone govern-

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Hinga Norman arrives today in another form

## Chief Norman's remains arrive today

From page 1

ment - was expected to be announced the next day, Tuesday. As at press time, the results had not been announced. An independent pathologist to have represented Norman's family, hired by former UK High Commissioner Peter Penfold and Sam Norman Norman Jr, son of the late Mr. Norman, in London was unable to make the trip to Senegal due to administrative bottlenecks. The result of the autopsy is unlikely therefore to settle the mystery surrounding Mr. Norman's sudden death.

Autopsy results around the death of famous and powerful figures in potentially volatile countries are often notoriously controversial. The result of the autopsy conducted on the body of Nigerian politician Chief M.K.O. Abiola, conducted by a Canadian pathologist in 1998, is still disputed. Mr. Abiola was

believed to have been poisoned in prison but the Canadian blithely asserted that he had died a natural death.

Mr. Norman died while awaiting the verdict in his trial for alleged war crimes committed in the course of his leadership of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), a pro-democracy volunteer force that resisted the forces of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and rogue government soldiers, during Sierra Leone's recent civil war. Mr. Norman became hugely popular as a hero for his war efforts, and he was a senior minister in the current government at the time of his indictment.

President Tejan Kabbah, who feared the rising popularity of Mr. Norman, quickly distanced himself from his former ally. If found not guilty, as many of Mr. Norman's supporters predicted, Mr. Norman's release would have sparked

a chain reaction which might have upset the fragile political settlement in which Mr. Kabbah is a figurehead of a government run by Western donors.

A press release from spokesman of the Norman family, Alfred Sam Foray, states that a public viewing "and paying of respects by Freetown and Western Area residents" of Mr. Norman's body will be hosted by civil society on Thursday 8 March at Queen Victoria Park in central Freetown. Mr. Norman's body will then be taken to Bo, where a Christian burial will be arranged. He will be buried at Ngolala, a village near Mongere, several miles from Bo.

Mr. Norman first shot to national prominence in 1967 when, as a young captain in the army, he was ordered by the late Brigadier David Lansana to arrest Siaka Stevens and the Governor General, in a holding coup

meant to prevent Stevens' inauguration as Prime Minister after disputed elections. Lansana was a protégé of Albert Margai, the outgoing Prime Minister. The vindictive Stevens later arrested and imprisoned Mr. Norman for years. Mr. Norman fled Sierra Leone after his release, and returned only after soldiers overthrew the All Peoples Congress' government - installed by Stevens - in 1992. By then a bloody civil war had started in the country. Mr. Norman was made Regent Chief of Telu Bongor Chiefdom, not far from Bo, by the young soldiers. There he started the experiment that would grow into the CDF.

He organized a volunteer force of dozens of young men to defend the chiefdom. RUF rebels and rogues soldiers one night descended on the Telu, his headquarters, and murdered nearly a

hundred people in the town. Mr. Norman escaped miraculously.

He accelerated his civilian defence effort, and scored successes by reducing attacks in the Chiefdom and beyond. When the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) came to power in 1996, Mr. Norman was made Deputy Defence Minister, and empowered to expand the CDF. The core of the CDF was the Kamajors, a Mende hunter militia. The force became the sole internal force that the government came to rely on, particularly after the army collaborated with the RUF and overthrew the government in 1997. While every other minister fled, Mr. Norman remained in the country and helped organize resistance against the junta. The junta was unseated in February 1998. Mr. Kabbah's government was reinstated.

To the shock of many,

Mr. Norman was among the first to be indicted by the UN-created Special Court. He was brusquely arrested in his office - he had then been made Minister of Internal Affairs - and detained by the Court four years ago. Mr. Norman was taken to Dakar for medical treatment on 17 January this year.

According to Sam Foray, Mr. Norman was held "in the worst possible prison cell" in Dakar, before his transfer to a military hospital. Even here, "regrettably he was not held at nor did he die at a VIP wing of a prestigious military hospital as claimed by the lies...of Court Spokesman Peter Andersen." Mr. Andersen could not be reached for comments, but independent sources confirm Mr. Foray's claims.

Thousands are expected to attend Mr. Norman's funeral ceremony in Bo.

Awareness Times  
Wednesday, 7 March 2007

# Norman's Body Arrives Today

***By Alfred Sam Foray  
Hinga Norman Spokesman***

All but two of Late Regent Chief, Sam Hinga Norman's ten children are now in Sierra Leone awaiting the arrival on Wednesday of the remains of their father from Senegal. The oldest, Sam Norman, Jr., will accompany the body home following Monday's autopsy. Another daughter, Genevieve, is thousands of miles away on yet another continent and will not be attending her father's funeral.

Norman's senior wife, Josephine, is also unable to travel to Sierra Leone on doctor's advice with respect to her health. She went

abroad when she suffered a partial stroke during the January 6 AFRC/RUF incursion into Freetown. She has not seen her husband since.

On a more positive note, it is with great satisfaction to report the remarkable cohesiveness, family solidarity and God's grace that has allowed the Norman family especially the children, the oldest being only thirty-eight years of age, to hold up so well thus far. More so remarkable that they have undertaken to conduct a virtual state funeral for their dad without the State. At the moment, it appears all systems are go for the funeral next Sunday, March 11. The funeral home is ready; Valunya Chiefdom is ready to receive

her native son; Victoria Park and Bo Town Hall are presumed ready for the viewing and Kamajors from all across the country are being suited up to receive their leader.

So far and for the duration, the family has withstood the powers of the State to steal their father's finest hour. They have successfully treaded diplomatic and bureaucratic waters in Senegal and have pulled themselves together financially, emotionally and physically to ensure the integrity of the family, and are still standing strong. Chief Norman has to be smiling down from Heaven.

Meanwhile, family patriarch, Albert Norman who introduced his baby brother to the Royal Sierra Leone Mili-

tary Forces in 1954, waits anxiously to be united with his more famous and illustrious brother. The family is, of course, eternally grateful for the invaluable support given by their Excellencies, former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby, and former British High Commissioner, Chief Peter Penfold. "A man has many friends for companionship, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother," (The Holy Bible).

With grace and dignity we salute them all. Your prayers, material and spiritual support are highly appreciated.

God Bless All;

God Bless Sierra Leone.

The New Citizen  
Wednesday, 7 March 2007

# NORMAN'S BODY ARRIVES TODAY

The remains of the late Chief Hinga Norman who died in Dakar, Senegal at the military hospital in that country will arrive in Freetown today.

The remains of the late CDF leader and Special Court indictee will be accompanied by personnel of the Special Court and the United Nations and relatives, including the former Vice President Albert Joe Demby.

According to family sources, the body of the late Chief Hinga Norman would be flown from the Lungi International Airport by helicop-



ter to a helipad at Aberdeen after a special ceremony the body will be formally handed

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**From page 1**

## NORMAN

over to the relatives of the late Chief Hinga Norman.

According to sources, civil society groups are making arrangements for a grand laying out ceremony at the Victoria Park after which the body would be taken back to the Columbia Davies Funeral Home.

The remains of the late Chief Hinga Norman would be taken to Bo where a civic funeral will be organised to pay respect to the former CDF leader after which the remains would be taken to his village near Mongiri for burial on Saturday.

The initial efforts by civil society to convince the Freetown City Council for a civic funeral in Freetown came to naught when the Mayor of the Freetown City Council decided that Chief Hinga Norman did not meet the criteria for a civic funeral.

Chief Hinga Norman who was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 became famous in Sierra Leone for the role he played in organising hunters known

as Kamajors to resist the AFRC that toppled the constitutionally elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

After the restoration of the government of President Kabbah, many Sierra Leoneans saw him as a hero who took on both the AFRC and the RUF but this fame was short-lived after investigators of the Special Court decided that he could have been one of those who carried the greatest responsibility in the devastating war in Sierra Leone for which he was tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, a good number of citizens sympathise with the family of the late Chief Hinga Norman and now ask questions – why a man who risked his life to restore a constitutionally elected government could be locked up only for him to die in a manner that is most unexpected of a hero.

The Exclusive  
Wednesday, 7 March 2007

# Norman's Remains

# Arrive Today



Late Hinga Norman

**T**he Acting Chairman of the Civil Society Movement; Festus Minah, has said in Freetown that the body of the late CDF Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who died in a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal will be flown today to Freetown. Speaking to The Exclusive yesterday, Mr. Minah said there will be a laying out ceremony at the Victoria Park on Thursday. He said as far as the Civil Society Organization is concerned, Chief Norman was a national hero as he

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## Norman's Remains Arrive Today

*From front page*

scarified his life to save this country from destruction by RUF/AFRC rebels. He said all civil society organizations in Sierra Leone, met yesterday to discuss arrangements pertaining to the funeral. Mr. Minah said they

are in close contact with the family of the late man, and that both the family members and the Civil Society Movement will receive Norman's corpse at the Special Court's helipad today. He said civil society had earlier identified themselves with the

family of Chief Norman to ensure he receives a befitting burial. Norman was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on an eight count charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the course of Sierra Leone's eleven years war.

Awoko

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

# Norman's corpse arrives today

By Betty Milton

The remains of late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman will be flown to Freetown today after an autopsy was done on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March in Senegal.

The corpse will arrive at the Mammy Yoko Helipad where it will be handed over to the family who will then take it to the Columbia Davies Funeral Home.

Reports say that the Civil Society wrote a letter requesting that Norman be given a civic funeral but this request was not granted by the Mayor of Freetown so therefore the remains of the

late chief will be laid out at the Victoria Park Garden for public viewing on Thursday after which the corpse will be conveyed on Friday to Bo with a brief stop at Mile 91, Moyamba and Taiama because the late man had worked there as a Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

Upon arrival in Bo there will also be a laying out at the Bo Town Hall after which a service will be held at the Salvation Church in Bo.

Then there will be a procession in Bo after which the corpse will then be taken to his home in Mongere.

The remains of the late chief

will finally be laid to rest in Nguuala.

Hinga Norman the former Deputy Minister of Defence and later Interior Minister was indicted by the Special court for war crimes and crimes against humanity and was in detention for three years.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January Norman and Issa Sesay were flown out of the country for medical in Dakar, Senegal which according to the Special Court was successful. He died during post operative care. Results of the autopsy have not been released to the public.



# The Spectator

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

## The Domestic Violence Bill: A Discussion

By Lotta Teale

### The law as it Stands

Despite this domestic violence against wives and female relatives is in law considered normal in most communities in Sierra Leone and acceptable up to a point. Under Customary Law, a husband has the right to administer reasonable chastisement to his wife. According to this he can beat her but not to the extent of wounding her. At that point outside, intervention may be sought, but inevitably, that point varies from case to case.

The law as it currently stands is also very conflicted. In some chiefdoms (for example in certain areas in Bo District), if a husband beats his wife to a 'reasonable' extent, it is counted as a 'fight between the spouses' and attracts a fine levied on both parties. If the couple stays together, the husband is to pay both fines. If both parties not staying together, the wife is to pay her fine and the husband too must pay his. This may seem extraordinary by modern standards, but, without the enactment of the Domestic Violence Bill, it is how the law will continue to stand.

Currently, certain extremely serious incidents of domestic violence can in theory be prosecuted under the general common law, under offences such as grievous bodily harmed under offences against the Person Act of 1861. However, prosecutors are wary of undue interference into 'private matters' and are often reluctant to prosecute. Very few prosecutions indeed are brought, and even fewer convictions are obtained. In 2006, throughout the provinces, only one successful prosecution was brought for an offence of domestic violence.

In practice, domestic violence is surrounded by a culture of silence. There is often pressure from partners and family not to report abuse and women may fear ostracism or retaliation. Even when matters are taken to outside bodies, such as the Family Support Unit (FSU), women are almost always encouraged to settle the matter rather than prosecute. This is not less because FSU has little means to help the victim, all they can usually do is, call the husband and try to mediate. Mediation and counseling are very important and in many situations may work, but without additional protection it can leave women even more vulnerable.

The FSU has no safe houses, and very few victims have alternative accommodation or support mechanisms. Their only real alternative to the street is to return with their children to the same violent

situation they just fled from. Without protective mechanisms, the violence can escalate because with this culture of impunity, perpetrators know there is nothing the victim can do.

#### **The Need for Change**

A survey by physicians for Human Rights in 2000 found that 80% of women in Sierra Leone believe that there should be legal protection to protect women. Despite this, no legal reforms have yet been made to protect them.

The government has legal and moral obligations to protect its citizens, and as such to provide a remedy to a situation once it is reported. Section 20(1) of the 1991 Constitution states: 'No person shall be subject to any form of torture or any punishment or other treatment which is inhuman or degrading. As such, the government shares responsibility with the abusers if it fails to act to protect the victims. The current failure to protect women is also contrary to Sierra Leonean law, for according to s.75 of the courts Act 1965, the application of customary law must not be repugnant to equity, natural justice and good conscience.

Under International Law, all persons have a right to freedom from coercion and violence, the right to equality within families, and to decide freely whether they have sex. More specifically, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) advocates for the enactment and enforcement of legislation to prevent and punish acts of domestic violence.

Precedent from elsewhere in the commonwealth confirms the need for protection. In *s. v. Baloyi* 2000 (2) SA 425 (CC), a case before the constitutional court in South Africa, the court held that the constitution imposes a direct obligation on the state to protect the right of all persons to be free from domestic violence.

The UK and other commonwealth countries have already enacted Bills similar to that under discussion, for example South Africa passed its Domestic Violence Act in 1998.

#### **The Domestic Violence Bill**

Ordinary common law needs to be supplemented by specific offences recognizing the peculiarities of domestic abuse, as well as special protective measures to help the victim. The new Bill does this.

Domestic violence is defined in the Bill to include physical and sexual abuse, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, economic abuse, intimidation harassment and stalking, damage to

property, entry into the complainants residence without consent where they do not share the same address, and any other controlling, abusive or threatening behaviour. Under the Bill, a single act may amount to domestic violence, a crucial provision to ensure a victim's life and health need not be endangered by multiple attacks. It would protect anyone in a family relationship, including married partners, cohabitantes, and fiancées, parents and children. It is important to note that the Bill is gender neutral, and would protect men suffering from abuse at the hands of women as well as vice versa.

The Bill would provide an array of tools for dealing with domestic violence, including mediation, punishment of the perpetrator through criminal law and protection for the victim through civil law. Such measures would provide a vital balance so that individual cases can be dealt with in the most appropriate manner and as sensitively as possible. As long as the case does not involve aggravated assault, the Bill provides that matters may be settled out of court, either at the complainant's request, or if the court is of the opinion that it can be amicably settled. If the matter is referred for settlement, the Bill provides that the court shall also refer the parties to counseling and shall appoint a probation officer to report on the respondent's subsequent conduct. In practice it is likely that very many cases would be dealt with in this manner.

However, if the court thinks that the matter cannot be settled amicably, and the complainant wants to prosecute, or if it is a matter of aggravated assault, the matter would go to court.

In terms of criminal actions, under the Bill, domestic violence would constitute an offence. If found guilty, a perpetrator may be liable to a fine not exceeding Le 5,000,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both.

On the civil side, a person may apply to the court for a 'protection order' to prevent a respondent from carrying out a threat of domestic violence or carrying out further violence. Of course, in law this would already be prohibited, but if the court has made such an order, the police can subsequently arrest the respondent forthwith if he is found to have breached that order. This provides protection to victims in times of emergency.

A protection order could also regulate the relationship between the victim and alleged perpetrator, thus helping to calm down potentially volatile situations by preventing the two from coming into contact with each other. As part of a

protection order, the court could specify that the respondent must not go into or near certain places frequented by the applicant, or by her children. In certain serious circumstances and as an emergency measure, the court could direct that the Respondent leave the family home, but continue to pay rent so that the applicant and her children can carry on living in that home. Given the shortage of safe houses for victims of domestic violence, this provision is crucial, especially for women who are caring for children, who would otherwise be forced onto the streets. The Bill also gives the courts power or order, as a temporary emergency measure only, that the Respondent provide financial support to any children for which he is liable.

The court may also direct that the respondent seeks counseling, surrenders any firearm or weapon, and restrains from taking or damaging the Applicant's property.

The Act would endow courts with the power to issue interim protection orders without the respondent's presence of the applicant.

This is an important provision so that victims can come to court without the risk of alerting a perpetrator who may become violent when told of the complaint.

It also ensures that proceedings can go ahead even when a respondent persistently avoids service or refuses to come to court. However, in such circumstances, the respondent will be summoned to court, where he can see to discharge the order. Indeed, a court may discharge orders at any time on an application made by either party.

The Bill also specifies that any person who breaches a protection order would commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Le 2,000,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both.

#### **Conclusion**

The establishment of the FSU was an important step forward in taking offences within the home seriously. However, that organization still faces enormous challenges because its powers are so restricted. The enactment of this Bill would provide the FSU with an array of tools, including criminal prosecution, civil action and alternative dispute resolution. It would provide emergency means to protect women when they are at their most vulnerable. In so doing, the passage of the Bill would also bring Sierra Leonean law in line with international standards, for the ultimate benefit of the whole community.

## The Christian Monitor

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

### **Penfold decries British Government over Norman**

Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold, has criticised the British government for citing Sierra Leone as one of its foreign policy successes while grave injustice reigns in the country.

Citing the case of the unexpected death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, he said the late man 'is regarded as the real hero who helped restore peace and democracy to Sierra Leone. His arrest and incarceration for the past four years by the UN's special war crimes court has been a grave injustice'.

Penfold, was British envoy at the time of the overthrow and restoration of the deposed government of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in 1998. He was writing in a letter published in the Times in London last week. He is the architect of the re-imposition of the Kabbah government for which he paid dearly with his job.

Norman's death he said 'is not only a great loss to his family, his friends, and his country, but also a tragedy for all those who not only talk about peace and democracy but are prepared to fight and die for these causes.'

Peter Penfold, who is a lover of Sierra Leone, is currently in the country to oversee preparations for the forthcoming trip to the UK and Gibralta of the choir of the Milton Margai School for the Blind. He is the chairman of the school's UK Association charity. His visit coincided with the death of the late Chief Norman whom he visited in prison on all the occasions he visited the country in the past three years.

Meanwhile, we are reliably informed that, the autopsy on the body of the late chief Norman, to ascertain the cause of death was carried out yesterday Monday 5th March. The result is due today. The body is expected to be flown to Freetown this week to be followed by the burial. We will keep readers posted.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 March 2007

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

VOA 05 March 2007

#### **Liberians look to Foreign Investment for Reconstruction**

By Darren Taylor, Washington

Liberia's authorities recently launched a massive international drive aimed at reconstructing the country. The tiny West African state of 3.5 million people was largely destroyed by civil conflict that began with a coup in 1980, and lasted until 2004. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – Africa's first elected female head of state – has appealed to international investors to help rebuild Liberia. The country is rich in minerals, including gold and oil, but remains one of the poorest nations in the world.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **UN chief hails Ivory Coast peace accord**

UNITED NATIONS, March 5, 2007 (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday hailed the peace accord signed by Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo and his main rebel foe and said he looked forward to further talks on details of the deal and the role the UN is expected to play.

#### **AU calls for implementation of Ivory Coast peace deal**

ADDIS ABABA, March 5, 2007 (AFP) - African Union Commission chief Alpha Oumar Konare on Monday called for the implementation of a landmark peace deal signed between the Ivory Coast president and the main rebel leader. In a statement, Konare called on President Laurent Gbagbo and rebel chief Guillaume Soro to "implement the commitments they have undertaken and on Ivorian political leaders to sustain the momentum."

#### **Peace accord hailed across Ivory Coast**

**ABIDJAN**, March 5, 2007 (AFP) - Ivory Coast opposition parties and media on Monday hailed a new peace accord signed by President Laurent Gbagbo and the country's main rebel leader, calling it "a source of hope" but expressing some doubts as to its implementation. "This accord is a source of hope for the Ivory Coast and its people who have suffered so much in this situation of neither peace nor war," Koffi Niamkey, a spokesman for the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast (PDCI), previously the country's single party, told AFP.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Liberian President Joins Counterparts to Mark Ghana's Anniversary**

*(The Inquirer, The Informer, The News, Heritage, New Vision and Daily Observer)*

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf yesterday departed for Ghana to join more than 30 other world leaders to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ghana and extended Liberia's

compliments to Ghana for its support in the realization of peace and recovery of Liberia. The Presidential Press Secretary Mr. Cyrus Badio said that the Liberian leader will move on to Spain, Japan and Brussels as part of her 10-day trip aimed at seeking debt relief, strengthening bilateral relations and looking for investors to come Liberia.

### **UN Food Agency Dispels “Damaging” Newspaper Report**

*(The Inquirer and New Democrat)*

- According to *The Inquirer* and *New Democrat* newspapers, the World Food Programme (WFP) - Liberia Country Director Louis Imbleau, in a press release, discounted a newspaper report last week that the agency distributed food unfit for human consumption to two of its distribution partners, and not only described the report as “categorically untrue”, but depicted some ignorance on the part of the paper’s investigators to the working of the WFP.

### **Corruption Suspect Lawyers Refute Claims**

*(The Analyst and The Inquirer)*

- Speaking to reporters in Monrovia yesterday, the Legal Counsel of corruption suspect former Commerce Minister Samuel Wlue, Attorney Syama Cyrenius Cephas rejected claims that his client escaped the Country to evade justice and added that he was at liberty to go anywhere once he had been charged and sent to court.

### **Senate Committee Debates Major Steel Agreement Today**

*(Heritage)*

- A release issued in Monrovia yesterday said that the Senate Committee on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment will today commence public hearings which would lead to ratification of the Mittal Steel Agreement already signed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

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

#### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Leaves for Ghana**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Lawyers for Former Commerce Minister Dismiss Claims of Evading Justice**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Government Identifies Nearly US\$300m “Bogus” Domestic Debt**

- Speaking during a simulcast yesterday, Finance Minister, Dr. Antoinette Sayeh said government will begin paying some of its domestic debt by March 15 but said a vetting process discovered that US\$297.47 million of the claims were bogus. According to Dr. Sayeh the country’s “valid” domestic debt is in the tune of US\$303.87 million and not US\$913.81 million as was thought.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **After Losing Major Case Government Transfers Assistant Justice Minister**

- [sic:] Credible sources have informed Radio Veritas that Assistant Justice Minister for Litigation, Morris Kaba has been transferred to Rivercess as County Attorney.
- [sic:] According to sources Attorney Kaba was re-assigned based on a recommendation of Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris but it is unclear why he was removed from his post.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)***Newspaper Vendors Boycott Sale of Local Dailies**

- In an interview today newspapers vendors say they have boycotted the sale of two local dailies, *The Inquirer* and *The News* newspapers and warned its members against the sale of the papers.
- According to the vendors' spokesman, Emmanuel Korkor the boycott comes in the wake of the papers selling to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), 18 Liberian dollars instead of the standard price of 20 Liberian dollars. But, senior editors of the two papers debunked the vendors' claim and said it was one of the vendors that won a bid to supply newspapers to UNMIL at 18 Liberian dollars.

**Senate Committee to Hold Public Hearing on Mittal Agreement Today**

- A release issued in Monrovia yesterday said, the Senate Committee on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment will begin to hold public hearings on the Mittal Steel Agreement on today, Tuesday.
- The Mittal Steel Agreement is currently before the Legislature for ratification and the committee called on members of the public and interested individuals and institutions to attend the hearing.

*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](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*