

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



Joseph Kamara, the new Deputy Prosecutor.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Friday, 8 August 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, 6 August 2008

Joseph F Kamara Appointed Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court

Prosecutor Stephen Rapp announced today the appointment of Sierra Leonean lawyer Joseph F Kamara as Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.



Mr. Kamara is the first Sierra Leonean to occupy the post. He succeeds Dr. Christopher Staker who has held the position since July 2005.

Mr. Kamara, a Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor, joined the Special Court in 2004. Most recently he led the Prosecution team in the successful prosecution of two former leaders of Sierra Leone's Civil Defence Forces militia.

“Mr. Kamara is an individual of outstanding legal ability and integrity,” said Mr. Rapp.

“I look forward to working with him as my Deputy Prosecutor to complete the mission of achieving justice for the grave and massive crimes committed against the innocent people of this country.”

Joseph Kamara said he was looking forward to the challenge.

“This is a significant milestone in the history of the Court,” he said. “I promise to work to promote the protection of fundamental human rights and to bring the workings of the Special Court closer to the people of Sierra Leone”

Under the Special Court Statute, the Deputy Prosecutor is appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone in consultation with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Prosecutor. His appointment has been approved and will take effect on 15 August 2008.

“This appointment reflects the close partnership between the government and the international community that has become one of the hallmarks of this institution,” said Rapp.

The Prosecutor also recognized the significant contribution of Dr. Staker to the work of the Prosecution.

“Dr. Staker has provided tremendous service during his tenure as Deputy Prosecutor. His expertise has proved invaluable, not only in leading the appeals proceedings but also on a wide array of legal issues that have arisen during the trials.”

Before joining the Special Court Mr. Kamara served for eight years as a prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Sierra Leone, where he rose to the rank of Senior State Counsel. He later worked in private practice, both domestically and for several firms in Washington, DC.

Mr. Kamara is a graduate of the Faculty of Law at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. He also holds a Masters in Law from Southern Methodist University in the United States.

#END

Produced by the
Office of the Prosecutor
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Email: SCSL-Prosecutor-Press@un.org

Visit the Special Court's website at www.sc-sl.org

Awoko

Thursday, 7 August 2008



Special Court for Sierra Leone Sierr Leonean Dep Prosecutor



*Joseph Kamara Sierra Leonean Deputy prosecutor
Special Court for Sierra Leone*

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has appointed its first Sierra Leonean deputy prosecutor. As Betty Milton reports, Joseph Kamara has the track record that fits him perfectly well in his new job.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Mr Kamara said he felt "very proud and humble" assuring he would do his best for the court and country.

Under the statute of the court, the president of Sierra Leone appoints the deputy prosecutor in consultation with the UN secretary-general. "I do assure the president, who made the appointment, of my best in prosecuting those responsible for crimes in the country."

Mr Kamara said his appointment was an indication that Sierra Leoneans could do it and assured the president he would not betray the confidence reposed in him. He said he intended to have an open-door policy "to bridge the gap between the office of the prosecution and that of the public".

On the issue of his independence and impartiality in prosecuting cases dealing with crimes committed in Sierra Leone since he is also a Sierra Leonean, Mr Kamara said

that did not matter. He said he would not look at the individual or the source; rather would be interested in the dispensation of justice which he said was what Sierra Leonean needed. He said the trial would be as smooth as it had always been.

The deputy prosecutor expressed hope that the trial would soon be brought to a close especially that of the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor which resumes in The Hague next week after a recess.

According to the prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, the appointment of a Sierra Leonean reflected the close relationship between the government and the international

community.

He commended his new deputy calling him "an individual of outstanding legal ability and integrity."

He said he looked forward to working with him "to complete the mission of achieving justice for the grave and massive crimes committed against the innocent people of this country."

Mr Kamara succeeds Christopher Starker who had been in the job since 2005. Until his appointment, he worked in the office of the Prosecutor for 8 years and served as a senior trial attorney and most recently led the prosecution team in the successful prosecution of two former leaders of the Civil Defence Force militia.

Concord Times
Thursday, 7 August 2008

First Salone deputy prosecutor for Special Court

Prosecutor Stephen Rapp has announced the appointment of Sierra Leonean lawyer Joseph F Kamara as deputy prosecutor of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Kamara is the first Sierra Leonean to occupy the post. He succeeds Dr. Christopher Staker who has held the position since July 2005.

A senior trial attorney in the

office of the prosecutor, Kamara joined the Special Court in 2004.

Most recently he led the prosecution team in the successful prosecution of two

former leaders of the country's Civil Defence Forces (CDF) militia.

"Mr. Kamara is an individual of outstanding legal ability and integrity," said Mr. Rapp.

"I look forward to working with him as my deputy prosecutor to complete the mission of achieving justice for the grave and massive crimes committed against the

Contd. page 3

First Salone deputy prosecutor for Special Court

From page 1

innocent people of this country."

The new prosecutor said he was looking forward to the challenge.

"This is a significant milestone in the history of the Court," he said and added: "I promise to work to promote the protection of fundamental human rights and to bring the workings of the Special Court closer to the people of Sierra Leone."

Under the Special Court Statute the deputy prosecutor is appointed by the government of Sierra Leone in consultation with the secretary general of the United Nations and the prosecutor. His

appointment has been approved and would take effect on 15 August 2008.

"This appointment reflects the close partnership between the government and the international community that has become one of the hallmarks of this institution," said Rapp.

He also recognized the significant contribution of Dr. Staker to the work of the Prosecution.

"Dr. Staker has provided tremendous service during his tenure as Deputy Prosecutor. His expertise has proved invaluable, not only in leading the appeals proceedings but also on a wide array of legal issues

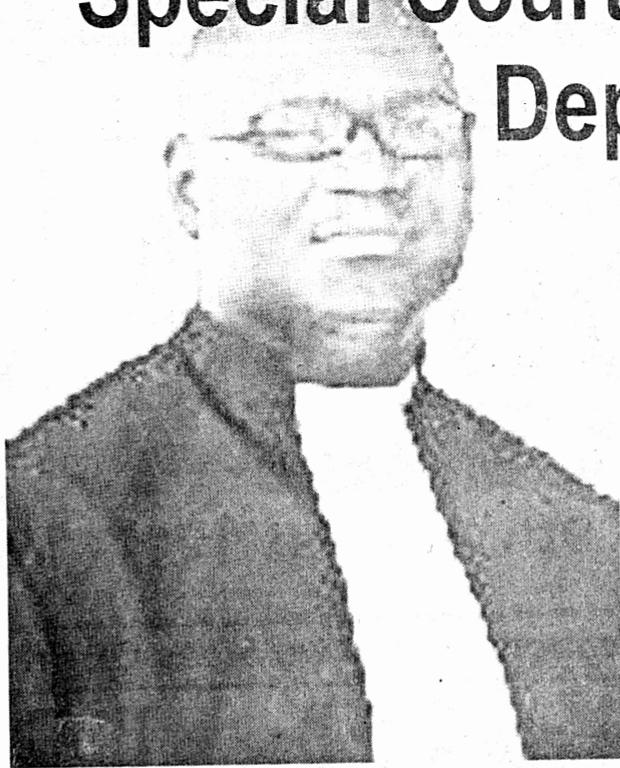
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Before joining the Special Court lawyer Kamara served for eight years as a prosecutor in the office of the director of public prosecution of Sierra Leone, where he rose to the rank of senior state counsel.

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Special Court Appoints New Deputy Prosecutor



Prosecutor Stephen Rapp announced today the appointment of Sierra Leonean lawyer Joseph F Kamara as Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Kamara is the first Sierra Leonean to occupy the post. He succeeds Dr. Christopher Staker who has held the position since July 2005. Mr. Kamara, a Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor, joined the Special Court in 2004. Most recently he led the Prosecution team in the successful prosecution of two former leaders of Sierra Leone's Civil Defence Forces militia.

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Cotton Tree News
Thursday, 7 August 2008

Special Court appoints new Deputy Registrar



Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

Thursday, 07 August 2008



A Sierra Leonean has been appointed as the new Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Court announced the appointment of Joseph F. Kamara on Wednesday. He is the first Sierra Leonean to occupy the post, and succeeds Dr. Christopher Staker who held the position since July 2005. Stephen Rapp, Prosecutor of the court said the appointment of his new deputy was done by the Government of Sierra Leone in consultation with the United Nations Secretary General and the prosecutor. Mr. Rapp described his deputy as an individual of outstanding legal ability and integrity. He promised to work with him in order to complete the mission of achieving justice in the country for grave crimes committed during the country's civil war. Mr. Kamara, the new deputy prosecutor said his appointment was a significant milestone in the history of the Special Court. The new deputy prosecutor is expected to assume office on the fifteenth of August.

Cocorioko

Wednesday, 6 August 2008

Joseph F Kamara Appointed Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court



Written by Special Court Press Release

Wednesday, 06 August 2008



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Inter-Press Service (South Africa)

Thursday, 7 August 2008

Former Rebel Commanders Awaiting Judgment

By Lansana Fofana
Freetown

Final arguments in the lengthy trial of three former commanders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have ended in Freetown, making way for judgment which is expected by the end of this year.

The three -- Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao -- have been on trial since July 2004, following their arrest and indictment by the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone on an 18-count charge of war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian laws.

The former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, is also being tried by the Special Court, accused of having provided support to the RUF in exchange for so-called "blood diamonds". For security reasons, his trial is taking place in the Hague.

Four years into the trials, public interest is still high, as the people wait for justice to be dispensed. The court earlier this year sentenced two sets of militia leaders, two from the pro-government civil defence force (CDF) and three from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), a splinter group from the national army that ousted the elected civilian government in a May 1997 coup, remaining in power for nine months before it was itself toppled by a Nigerian-led regional intervention force.

Jabati Mambu, a 25-year old who had his right hand chopped off at the wrist by rebel forces when they invaded Freetown in January 1999, is still bitter.

"I want to see justice done to the three RUF commanders. I was a school going boy at the time when I was captured by the rebels and mercilessly amputated. Now, most of the rebels have been rehabilitated and given skills training while I and other amputees languish with our scars. We know of huge donor assistance coming through for us but we never receive it. This is just too unfair; and so if these people are punished, that will be justice for us the victims."

Some of the testimony by witnesses has been horrific, reporting mass murders and rape, to mutilation of body parts and cannibalism. Witnesses have spoken of fighters disemboweling pregnant women, attacking civilians and hacking off limbs, locking whole families in their houses and set ablaze, with anyone attempting to escape shot immediately.

In 1999, the RUF signed a peace deal with the government of then-president Ahmad Tejan Kabba and transformed itself into a political party; but failed miserably in multi-party elections three years later, losing the presidential race and failing to secure even a single seat in parliament.

A reconciliation process was set in place, with all factional fighters granted blanket amnesty. But a deal agreed between the United Nations and the Sierra Leonean government in 2002 saw the setting up of the "Special Court," with the mandate of prosecuting "those who bear the greatest responsibility" for heinous crimes committed during the civil conflict.

The president of the Coalition of Civil Society organisations, Charles Mambu, in an interview with IPS, laments: "The people of Sierra Leone indeed need reconciliation. However, the atrocities committed by

the RUF deserve maximum punishment. This country cannot condone impunity anymore because we do not want a repeat of our immediate ugly past."

There is hardly any support for the RUF in the country. A few of their leaders who have avoided indictment by the special court today appear apologetic. Eldred Collins, a former spokesperson for the movement, appeals for clemency for his colleagues in detention.

"We agreed to a peace pact and the war was brought to a close. I don't believe the trial of the three gentlemen at the special court is in the good spirit of national reconciliation. I believe they should be released and let bygones be bygones," Collins says.

Collins, though, hardly dares express such views openly; not whilst the nearly 10,000 amputees and war wounded are exasperated by the fact that the ex-combatants were compensated by the government and donors with skills training, while the victims are yet to benefit from any such programme.

The two earlier trials of CDF and AFRC personnel resulted in sentences of between six and fifty years.

The court's spokesperson Peter Anderson remarks: "The (special) court has an agreement with some countries in the region which have promised to provide detention facilities for those convicted. These facilities have to meet international standards and as far as it is now, Sierra Leone's prisons are not up to such standards so those found guilty would have to serve out their sentences outside of Sierra Leone."

Sierra Leone's prisons do not meet international standards such as in the areas of food, accommodation and recreational facilities. Anderson also points to the many jail breaks that have taken place in the country, in most cases involving armed rebels or renegade soldiers who broke into prisons to free their colleagues. The fear of convicted war criminals escaping resonates with many Sierra Leoneans.

Abdul Sesay, a 45-year old auto mechanic who lost four relatives during the rebel attack on the capital Freetown, in January 1999, says, "I don't think it is wise keeping those people in our jails. They are very dangerous and we have witnessed many incidents where the prisons are broken into and hard core criminals set free only to unleash terror on us. Let them serve their sentences somewhere else; that will make me feel good."

The court is expected to end its work in the first half of 2009.

Red Pepper (Uganda)

Friday, 8 August 2008

Abu Mayanja Saved My Neck-Sebutinde

By Giles Muhame

Justice Julia Sebutinde has disclosed a horrible ordeal involving a powerful government official which Abu Mayanja saved her.

The Hague based judge said the influential government bureaucrat had hatched an evil plot to deny her a fatty job in 1991.

“A senior government official wrote to the Commonwealth secretariat boss that I did not deserve to serve as a legal consultant of the secretariat.

The boss was compelled to write to me to show cause why I should not be sacked,” said the British trained judge.

Addressing guests during the Abu Mayanja memorial lecture at Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday, Sebutinde observed that there was mounting pressure to sack her.

“Fortunately, Abu Mayanja, the minister for Justice and constitutional affairs at the time received a copy of the letter.

He did not know me but he wrote to the secretariat chief advising that the government official’s letter be ignored.

“My career would have ended like that.

I am at this stage because of Mayanja. I was successful,” said the judge currently handling the Charles Taylor trial I in the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Sebutinde is well known for the police, ministry of defence, and Uganda Revenue Authority sensational corruption probes in the 1990s.

Daily Monitor (Uganda)

Friday, 8 August 2008

Uganda can try Kony, says ICC's Ssebutinde

Paul Amoru
Kampala

The possibility of having Joseph Kony and his top commanders tried in Uganda were rekindled yesterday when a judge working with the International Criminal Court (ICC) said an opportunity still exists.

Justice Julia Ssebutinde said the country can still regain its powers to prosecute the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leaders since the law establishing the ICC provides room for deferral of the indictments.

"In principle, Uganda can still file a formal inter-party request for the ICC to withdraw from a case, under Article 19 of the Rome statute, which established the court," Justice Ssebutinde said. Ssebutinde, who heads the ICC tribunal trying former Liberian leader Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity was speaking as chief guest at the second annual Abu Mayanja memorial lecture on the theme; "Alternative justice system in context of northern Uganda conflict".

Mayanja died on November 5, 2005 after retiring from active politics. He was a co-founder of Uganda's first political party – the Uganda National Congress in the 1950s. Mr Mayanja served in posts as deputy prime minister, attorney general and minister of justice and constitutional Affairs between 1988 and 1994 under the NRM government.

Justice Ssebutinde discussed the role of the ICC in the last 10- years and told participants in Kampala that the country has a reason to celebrate the strides so far made by the ICC in its quest to punish perpetrators of human rights abuses.

President Museveni in 2003 invited Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the ICC prosecutor to investigate possible crimes against humanity in northern Uganda where a war between the LRA rebels and government has taken place.

Subsequently in 2005, the ICC issued arrest warrants for five senior members of the LRA charging them with attacking civilians and the forced enlistment of children into murderous militias. Justice Ssebutinde said the indictments forced Kony to come to the negotiating table. But in return, Kony wants the ICC charges dropped. Justice Ssebutinde's statement comes after the LRA leader has twice in the last three months failed to show up for the signing of the final peace accord sighting the ICC warrants as the only obstacle to peace.

Religious and cultural leaders from Acholi and many parts of the country, including politicians have called for a truth and reconciliation process, which would require the ICC to step a side in vain. But Justice Ssebutinde who is familiar with operations of The Hague based court in her statements carried a notch higher the hope for a situation that would see the ICC step aside.

"However, she said, a state party like Uganda under the ICC has only one opportunity to apply for the international court to withdraw from a case it has already investigated and set to try the suspects". "Uganda would have to get right its first application to be allowed to try Kony and his commanders," Justice Ssebutinde warned

“The government would convince the ICC that it is now willing and committed to using its local courts system to try the LRA,” she said.

Justice Ssebutinde said before the government applies for the withdrawal, it should ensure that the necessary legislation that will try the suspects are in place and are functional.

The Judge said: “Government will have to convince and persuade the court (ICC) it has sufficient infrastructure to handle these serious cases”. These would include, efficient investigating and prosecutorial departments, which she said are still weak and might require a lot of work to bring them to the required caliber.

Justice Ssebutinde said a mechanism of witnesses’ protection among others will have to be in place before the government attempts to apply for the ICC withdrawal if they are serious about getting it right. The Ugandan judiciary recently announced the creation of a Special High Court Division to try war crimes.

The ICC was established under the Rome Statute which in principle assigns the Court a role that is complementary to national systems, and comes in when a member State is unwilling or unable to carry out the investigation or prosecution.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 7 August 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

National Security Advisor offers no Apology for Role in Liberia's Conflict

(Daily Observer, Heritage, The Analyst, New Democrat, The Inquirer, The News, National Chronicle, The Monitor)

- The print media prominently featured Wednesday's testimony by a prominent Liberian giving accounts of horrendous atrocities committed during the country's decade-long civil war. The National Security Advisor to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Dr. H. Boimah Fahnbulleh, told the Liberia's Truth Commission that he has neither regret nor apology for his role in the Liberian conflicts.
- Dr. Fahnbulleh said his role was well thought off and he accepts the consequences. Dr. Fahnbulleh recounted his roles in the 1979 rice riot and the People Redemption Council (PRC) government in 1980 saying they endorsed whatever the Council did and therefore take responsibility.
- On 14 April 1979, many people died during a violent street demonstration in protest of a hike in the price of rice. These events led to the bloodiest coup, which left President William R. Tolbert and several of his officials dead on 12 April 1980.
- The Inquirer and New Democrat newspapers reported that the long-time political activist doubts that Americans shot and killed former President William R. Tolbert as is being rumoured. He suggested that those who aided in the overthrow of President Tolbert could be Lebanese and not Americans.
- The long-time political activist described the system of governance in Liberia by 1979 as bankrupt, setting the country on a time bomb, ready to explode. He told the hearing the entire Liberian conflict was based on vengeance and courage by marginalized citizens to get even with their so called "masters".
- Public sentiments in the media regarding the proceedings continued to be mixed with most supporters believing that the TRC is crucial to the achievement of lasting peace in the country. They perceived that it is through the TRC process that the divide created by the war could potentially be bridged. However, critics doubt that the TRC will promote reconciliation and restore dignity to victims. Others fear that the hearings might inflame the memories of the civil war.

UNDP to Hand Over 18 Vehicles to Police

(Heritage, The Monitor)

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Irish Aid will hand over 18 vehicles to the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police (LNP) to assist the police in effectively dealing with crime. According to a press release, the vehicles were purchased using funds from a US\$1.4 million grant agreement signed between the Government of Liberia and the UNDP in December 2007 for the purchase of 30 vehicles to be used by the ERU. An additional set of 12 vehicles is expected to arrive in the country shortly to be handed over to the police.
- The release said the vehicles are expected to help bolster the logistical capacity of the LNP.

Arcelor Mittal to pave Ganta-Yekepa Highway

(The Inquirer, Heritage, Liberian Express)

- The Government and Arcelor Mittal have signed an agreement for the pavement of the Ganta-Yekepa Highway. Under the deal, Arcelor Mittal is to provide the funding for the pavement of the road while the government will monitor the project. The Minister of Public Works, Luseni Donzo was extensively quoted as saying that the construction work on the 44 miles road will begin by October this year and that the project would be completed by June 2010. Already, Arcelor Mittal operates US\$1.5 billion dollars mining venture in Liberia and the company is expected to create at least 3,000 new full-time and generate up to 20,000 more temporary jobs.

Firestone Management, Workers' Union Sign Agreement

(National Chronicle)

- The management of Firestone-Liberia and the workers' union recently signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement. The agreement should have been signed in 2007 but was delayed due to some bureaucratic bottlenecks.
- The Secretary General of the workers' union, Mr. Edwin Cisco said the agreement is a milestone in the economic benefit for workers of Firestone Liberia. Mr. Edwin Cisco said workers have received a 19.5 percent increment while low wage income earners receive 24 percent over a three years period since 2007. He said they will receive nineteen months retroactive pay as of the signing of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Responding, the President of Firestone Liberia Incorporated, Mr. Charles Stuart said the signing of the agreement is another step in a long journey and recalled signing two other important documents this year.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

National Security Advisor Says Civil War Was About Vengeance

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Firestone Management and Workers Sign Agreement

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

World's Steel Giant to pave major Highway in Liberia

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

IFC Submits Findings on Oil Palm Sector

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has submitted findings of an assessment it conducted on the country's oil palm sector.
- The IFC assessed the potential of the oil palm sector and identified investment opportunities.
- The findings established that Liberia's oil palm sector has the potential to attract significant private investment.
- Presenting the findings, the Resident Representative of the IFC, Mr. Jumoke Jagun said with the right business environment, Liberia can become a net exporter of oil palm products.
- The study on the oil palm sector was carried in cooperation with the governments of Liberia and The Netherlands.

Ivorian Company Conducts Assessment in Maryland County

- A six-man technical team from the Ivorian based survey company, CABIRA has begun an assessment in Maryland County.
- The head of the team Konie Bourima said the assessment is to identify suitable spots to install light poles and other accessories for electricity.
- Correspondents say the assessment will cover selected areas in Maryland including Harper, Pleebo, Cavalla, Fish Town and part of Garaway.
- The exercise is the first phase of the bilateral project to connect Maryland and parts of Northern Liberia to the Ivory Coast through electricity.

- Maryland Acting Superintendent Hodo Clarke welcomed the team and thanked the LEC for including Maryland in such development program.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
6 August 2008

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Newspaper Summary

Nyenabo Survives Removal from Senate's leadership - Suspended for Six Months

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

- The media reports that following days of intense wrangling to have the President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Isaac Nyenabo, removed from office, plenary Tuesday suspended him for six months. The plenary of the Upper House took the decision Tuesday after nearly four hours of close-door discussions presided over by Vice President Joseph Boakai.
- The Inquirer, News, Heritage, Analyst, Public Agenda, and the Informer quote the Senate Spokesman, Varney Gbesay as saying that the suspension will take effect at the end of August at which time the National Legislature will go on an 'Agriculture Break.' Recently 20 members of the Senate signed a resolution declaring what they called a reversible and explicit vote of no confidence in the leadership of Sen. Nyenabo as Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate for 'gross administrative ineptitude.'

Former Official of PRC Government Testifies Before Truth Commission

(New Democrat, Public Agenda, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The News)

- Former Chief Justice, Counselor Chea Cheapoo testifying at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), thematic hearings yesterday denied involvement in the execution of 13 government officials in 1980. Cllr. Cheapoo said he was never aware of the executions and attempts by him to stop the execution did not materialize as the killings had already taken place.
- The News newspaper reports that he thrilled the audience when he said that the history which all Liberians seek to rewrite can and will only be complete when Liberians begin to speak of what happened to those who advocated for change and those considered as illiterates. The Inquirer then quotes Cheapoo as disclosing that apart from mass graves established during the Charles Taylor and Samuel Doe regimes, there were two additional mass graves around the Gurley street grave yard and the land that serves as the premise of the Monrovia Central Prison accusing the True Whig Party (TWP) of executing 48 indigenous chiefs in Sass Town and were buried in a mass grave in the yard that now hosts the prison compound while the 300 persons killed during the "Tolbert-Rice Civil Disobedience" were buried in a mass grave around the Gurley Street Grave Yard.

Government Increases Rice Price Again

(New Democrat, Public Agenda, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The News)

- The Government of Liberia has increased the price of the nation's staple, rice, on the Liberian market. According to Deputy Information Minister Gabriel Williams, the increment is in response to the escalation of the world market price of the commodity.
- Effective immediately, Mr. Williams noted that a 50 kilogram of Chinese round grain rice, otherwise known as butter rice, previously sold at a wholesale price of US\$30 is now US\$34, while retail price is US\$35. The 25 kilogram Chinese round grain rice or butter rice, previously sold at wholesale and retailer prices of US\$15 and US\$15.50 would now be sold at US\$17.00

and 17.50 respectively," he added. Minister Williams also noted that a wholesale price of a 50 kilogram bag of U.S. parboil rice otherwise known as 'pussawa' has been increased from US\$30 to US\$34, while retail price is now US\$35.00 instead of US\$31.00.

- He said a 50-kilogram Thailand long grain rice yet to arrive in the country would be sold at US\$44 for whole and retailed at US\$45 per 50 kilograms a bag.

National Commission Recognizes 23 Higher Learning Institutions

(National Chronicle)

- The National Commission on Higher Education says it only recognizes 23 out of 51 universities and colleges to operate as institutions of higher learning. The Director General of the Commission, Dr. Michael Slawon said the institutions were identified after a thorough survey on the degrees coming from the country.
- Dr. Slawon said based on the survey, the commission has certified the University of Liberia and the Cuttington University to offer up to Masters Degree and 6 other institutions have been certified to offer Baccalaureate Degrees while 10 others will offer associate degrees and five are to offer certificate or diploma to students.

Former ECOMOG COS Plans Half Million Investment...For Communication Industry

(The News)

- A two-man delegation from the Multi-mesh Group of Companies based in Port Harcourt, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is in the country to assess investment opportunities in the communication industry. The Nigerian delegation include Rtd. Maj./Gen. C.C. Iweze, Director of Multi-mesh Group, who served as Chief of Staff of the vanguard troops of the West African Peace Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in 1990 and Sir Godfrey Ohuabunwa, Managing Director/CEO of Cable Mission TV Network, a subsidiary of Multi-mesh Group. Welcoming the delegation to the Justice Ministry Tuesday, Solicitor General Taiwan S. Gongloe praised Rtd. Gen. Iweze for his gallantry while serving with ECOMOG in Liberia.
- In brief interview, Gen. Iweze said his delegation is in Liberia to explore investment opportunity in the area of cable television and broadcasting network. He noted that having served with ECOMOG in Liberia; he saw the need to invest in the communication sector of the economy. "Initially, we intend to invest US\$500,000 if we get the necessary approval to set up our business here; we are also looking forward to holding discussion with the Minister of Information to acquaint him with our business plan," he added.

Radio Summary

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

President Pro Tempore Nyenabo Gets Six Months Suspension

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Hardened Criminals Flee Hideout During Police Raid

- Several hardened criminals have fled their hideout on Centre Street during a Police raid in the area.
- The criminals were recently dislodged from a one-time notorious hide-out, Blagba behind the Ministry of National Defense but later regrouped at a new criminal den known as Solalee behind the Barclay Training Centre Military Barracks.
- Police sources say as a means of securing the area a new depot named Metro Three has been established in the unfinished building which once housed the criminals.

Ex-PRC Government official Appears Before Liberia's Truth Commission

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

National Commission Confirms 23 Higher Institutions

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Firestone-Liberia Awards 105 Scholarships

- Firestone-Liberia has approved a total of 105 scholarships for deserving Liberian students.
- According to a member of the Firestone Scholarship Committee, Wadei Powell the exercise was based on merit and void of prejudice and bias.
- She said 51 students were awarded scholarships for undergraduate studies while 54 for both primary and secondary levels.

Voice of America

Wednesday, 6 August 2008

Human Rights Activists Trumpet ICC Actions on Darfur

By Michael Bowman
Washington
06 August 2008

Human rights activists say Sudan's allies and trading partners, such as China, are obligated to re-evaluate and adjust their dealings with Khartoum, now that the International Criminal Court has given notice of possible genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. VOA's Michael Bowman has details from Washington.



Omar Hassan al-Bashir (file)

AP Photo Last month, the ICC took steps to indict Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes. The court's chief prosecutor accused Mr. Bashir of masterminding a campaign of rape and murder targeting people in Sudan's violence-wracked Darfur region, and requested a warrant for the Sudanese leader's arrest.

Human rights activists say the ICC actions amount to a finding of likely genocide in Darfur, and that such a finding triggers clear obligations for the international community, particularly nations that deal closely with Sudan.

Betsy Apple specializes in crimes against humanity for the New York-based group Human Rights First.

"Every country in the world is on notice that there is a serious risk of genocide occurring in Darfur. Under the [United Nations] Genocide Treaty, states are obligated to take every conceivable action they can to prevent genocide," said Apple. "And the treaty does not require that states know for certain that genocide is happening. Rather, it is enough that states know that there is a serious risk of genocide occurring in order for this obligation to prevent genocide to kick in."

Apple was speaking in a conference call with the news media.

Also appearing on the conference call was international law expert Jerry Fowler, who heads the Save Darfur Coalition. Fowler says no nation has more extensive ties to Khartoum than China. Therefore, under the U.N. Genocide Treaty, Chinese officials bear the greatest responsibility to take immediate, decisive action to end bloodshed in Darfur.

"They have been a key protector of the government of Sudan in the United Nations Security Council. In effect, they have been the 'heat shield' of Khartoum in the Security Council. Secondly, they are a major arms supplier of the government of Sudan. A U.N. database indicates that 90 percent of arms transfers to Sudan come from China," said Fowler. "The third thing is their intimate and expanding economic

relationship [with Sudan]."

Whether or not the international community takes note of ICC pronouncements, President Bashir has said his country will not cooperate with the court. At the same time, the African Union has expressed concern that ICC actions could complicate efforts to bring peace to Darfur. Sudan maintains that reports of 200,000 deaths in Darfur are exaggerated, and the genocide label is inaccurate.



Joey Cheek (file photo)

Meanwhile, former U.S. Olympic speedskater and Darfur activist Joey Cheek says he is surprised that China revoked his visa for a visit that was to coincide with the summer games. Cheek, who heads a group of athlete-activists called Team Darfur, had planned to use his time in China to draw further attention to the situation in Darfur and advance his organization's call for China to use its influence in Sudan to end the bloodshed.

Cheek says China informed him of the visa revocation the day before he was to depart for Beijing but provided no reason for doing so.

The Bush administration has indicated it will protest the decision. President Bush is to arrive in China Thursday and will attend the opening ceremony for the Olympics Friday.

Voice of America

Wednesday, 6 August 2008

France Denies Involvement in Rwanda Genocide

By Lisa Bryant

Paris

06 August 2008

[Bryant report - Download \(MP3\)](#) 

[Bryant report - Listen \(MP3\)](#) 

France has rejected a report by Rwanda claiming Paris played a role in the 1994 genocide in the East African nation. Lisa Bryant reports from Paris the French government says it still wants to rebuild frayed relations with Rwanda.

In remarks to reporters Wednesday, French Foreign Minister spokesman Romain Nadal said the report by a Rwandan commission made "unacceptable accusations against French political and military officials," and he questioned the commission's objectivity.

Published Tuesday, the 500-page report claims France was aware of preparations leading up to Rwanda's 1994 genocide that killed some 800 people in just a few months. It accuses the French military in Rwanda of contributing to the planning of the massacres and even taking part in the killings that mostly targeted members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group. France had military advisors in Rwanda leading up to the genocide, and later headed a humanitarian operation there.

It implicates 13 French politicians and 20 military officials, including former French prime minister Alain Juppe - who was foreign minister at the time - and late president Francois Mitterrand.

The accusations against France are not new, nor are the French rebuttals. During a visit to Kigali in January, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner again denied French military involvement in the genocide.

Mr. Kouchner said there was a certain reticence and problems of understanding by the French military back home, but he would never attack the French army because it was not responsible for the killings. In his opinion, the mistakes were political ones.

France and Rwanda have traded accusations over the years over just who was responsible for the killings. The two countries cut diplomatic ties in 2006 after leading French judge Jean -Louis Brugiere accused current Rwandan President Paul Kagame of being involved in the death of his predecessor in 1994, which sparked the genocide.

The two countries have sought to mend relations in recent months, with a meeting



AFP Photo

French soldiers on patrol pass ethnic Hutu troops from the Rwandan government forces 27 June 1994, near Gisenye, about 10kms from the border with Zaire

between Kagame and French President Nicolas Sarkozy last December and Kouchner's trip to Rwanda in January. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nadal said Tuesday that France remained determined to rebuild a new relationship with Rwanda.