

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:

Wednesday, 8 March 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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For di People
7 March 2006

More revelations at Special Court

MORE FACT about the rebel war were tendered by Special Court witness FF1-113 who told about Ruf forced labour, recruitment of 14 year-old children and restrictions within their rebel-held territory.

These includes pass to be carried from one village to the other, forced labour in Ruf farms and training ground for Ruf at Pendembu where she said Augustine Gbao was the boss of the G5 Office.

That civilians who had to sell their wares at Bo Waterside must obtain travelling pass and taxes levied against civilians to buy medicines and food for the Ruf, amongst others.

Exclusive
8 March 2006

57 Prisoners Murdered

By Mohamed Kai

Special Court witness TF1-113 who is testifying in the trial of members of the Revolutionary

United Front (RUF), has disclosed that Fifty-seven prisoners were murdered at Kailahun

Police station in the presence of Augustine Gbao, Issa Sesay and the late General Sam Bockarie alias

Maskita.

The witness further intimated that Augustine Gbao was present at the

office of G-5 in the Kailahun, where right in his presence, Maskita murdered eight civilians.

She went on to state that the fifty seven prisoners were murdered one after the other

Contd. page 2

57 Prisoners Murdered

From front page

by two captured SLA and two RUF.

"The fifty seven prisoners killed were dumped in a gutter right before the police station," he further told the court.

Responding to a number of questions from Mr John Camey, Defence Counsel for Augustine Gbao, with regards his client role, the witness said that Gbao was the head of the G-5 and that he had knowledge of two separate killings.

She further disclosed that she was arrested by two RUF men in Bunumbu on the orders of Augustine Gbao and brought down to Kailahun where she was mercilessly beaten and stripped naked without allowing her to explain herself on the cause of her arrest.

TF-1-113 also told the trial chamber that the fugitive Special Court indictree, Johnny Paul Koroma, was in Kailahun when the fifty seven prisoners were murdered and further disclosed that he (Johnny Paul) passed a night at Augustine Gbao's house before he left for Kangama in Kailahun District the following day..

Concord Times
8 March 2006

Local News

Defense counsel dismisses witness' testimony as inconsistent

Story: Tanu Jalloh

Prosecution witness TF1-113, testifying in the ongoing Revolutionary United Front (RUF) trial at the Special Court Trial Chamber I was Tuesday accused of inconsistency in her testimonies by John Cammegh, defence counsel of the third accused, Augustine Gbao. "In page 10750 of the

proofing note of your statement taken by the prosecution on 27 March of 2003 you said eight men suspected of been Kamajors had already been killed before you came to the scene and later you saw Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie kill two others in

Kailahun. And on page 11291 of your statement on April 2005 you said seven of the ten men had already been killed before you arrived at the scene and you saw Maskita kill three later," Cammegh cited and continued: "Also line 10 on page 88 of your testimony

on July 18 during the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) trial at Trial Chamber 2 you said a different thing. He put it to her that each time she comes up to give testimonies she would give different explanations.

"You said you haven't seen

someone been killed before and so killing those people in your presence must be an awful sight right?" He asked. She answered in the affirmative. "Then why must you forget those happenings?"

Counsel said page 10751

of the witness' testimonies earlier stated that the carcasses of those men killed by Maskita in Kailahun were thrown away and now she has changed her account saying they were left to rot where they were killed.

He put it to the witness that whatever happened on the day the incident took place in Kailahun, Augustine Gbao was never supposed to have said anything because he was not the ground commander.

"Again it is your testimony on the last paragraph of page 10748, that Johnny Paul Koroma came to Kailahun and spent two nights in a house you don't know anything about. But you've just said he spent only one night at Gabo's residence. I want to put it to you that you are telling lies," he accused.

Awareness Times

8 March 2006

More revelations at Special Court

*By Saffia S. Kabba &
Tom E. Tommy*

The trial of the RUF continued yesterday at the

Special Court, with prosecution witness TF 1-113, revealing how she was stripped naked by the boys of

the G5 Commander because she refused to allow her child to take part in a mission with the RUF rebels. *Contd: page 2*

More revelations at Special Court

From front page

She further stated that when the matter relating to her refusal was reported to the G5 Commander, Augustine Gbao, she was immediately summoned by Gbao, and placed before a large where she was stripped naked and mercilessly beaten by the rebels.

She further revealed that before Johnny Paul left Kangarma, a number of civilians were detained in RUF cell, while a lot more were killed.

In his own testimony, TF-1108, said the organogram of the RUF was as

thus: Foday Sankoh (who was the head), followed by Sam Bockarie (Maskita), General Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao.

The witness explained how the rebels were obliging civilians to farm for them, and carry out some other domestic works.

He also explained that the rebels were using the civilians to go hunting and fishing for them.

He said those who failed to comply were killed and treated inhumanely.

Spectator
8 March 2006

Johnny Paul escapes jet threat

By Joseph Turay

The on going trials involving the three RUF indictees, the prosecution Witness

continued her testimony yesterday at the special court. The witness TF 1-113 disclosed to the court that the former AFRC junta Leader Johnny

Paul Koroma (JP) had escaped a "jet threat" in a town called Gangama in the Kailahun District.

The witness who was being cross examined by defence Lawyer for the third accused Augustine Gbao, John Cammegh, told the court that Johnny Paul Koroma who had pulled out of the capital Freetown, during the ECOMOG

intervention in the city; he later arrived in Kailahun District on a convoy together with his bodyguards. TF1 113 explained to the court that after the latter had arrived late in the evening, it was the third accused Augustine Gbao who hosted the former junta Leader and his followers.

The witness went on to revealed that she had left her *continued page 2*

Johnny Paul escaped

residence that evening to see the latter, after news went round that he (JP) had arrived in the town.

TF1- 113 told the defence Lawyer that she had been visiting the third accused house on a daily basis and that together with other women who had left their homes that same day assisted in the preparation of food for the junta Leader and his entourage.

“We used to cook for visitors of the RUF Leaders,” the witness stressed, and went further to explain that Johnny Paul who had spent the night in that same house that day, with the third accused, later

escaped from the town the following day due to the arrival of a jet that had been flying over the town.

The witness said she could not tell where the junta Leader headed for but that the latter and his convoy hurriedly left due to the “jet threat”

The witness in another development revealed to the court that the third accused who had also man handled her, had been collecting children from their homes to trained them as child soldiers or SBUs. She added that Gbao had been the G.5 Commander who had the authority to stop the killings of 57 suspected Kamjors who

Concord Times (online)

7 March 2006

FIDH, LWHR Welcome TRC in Liberia

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organization, Liberia Watch for Human Rights (LWHR) welcome the launching of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on January 20, 2006, in accordance with Article XIII of the Liberian Comprehensive Peace Agreement, a statement from the organizations state.

-SNIP-

The TRC and the Liberian authorities are also reminded that, in conformity with international law, the official capacity of alleged perpetrators shall in no case exempt a person from investigations and criminal responsibility. In that regard, FIDH and LWHR are calling the TRC as well as the Judiciary to investigate the past acts of several newly elected representatives and senators who are still subjected to travel bans or frozen assets pursuant to UN Resolutions 1521 (2003) and 1532 (2004) for their involvement in the latest civil war and their ongoing ties with Charles Taylor.

Finally, FIDH and LWHR are urging Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to ask the Nigerian authorities to turn Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 March 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia expects U.N. forces to stay up to 4 years

BERNE, March 7 (Reuters) - U.N. peacekeepers may need to stay in war-stricken Liberia for another three to four years, the country's president said on Tuesday, as the country slowly rebuilds its own security forces. "The peacekeeping forces we think will be required about three to four years," Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said at a news conference during a state visit to Switzerland.

Liberia: Government Striving Hard to Stick to Electricity Pledge

Monrovia, Mar 07, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's post-war government is pulling out all the stops to keep her inauguration promise to restore electricity to the capital, Monrovia, by July after a decade and a half of darkness.

Restoring the system to full working order is likely to take three or four years and could cost US \$200 million, according to the previous transitional government. So Liberia's Electricity Corporation (LEC) is to initially lease four giant diesel generators from nearby Ghana to make sure that streetlights within a 12-mile radius of Monrovia can be switched on before 26 July, Liberian Independence Day.

International Clips on West Africa

03/07/2006 04:07:38

Los Angeles Times INSIGHT

UN peacekeepers stretched to limit; International community pushes UN to take on more jobs without providing it adequate resources

The international community is pushing the United Nations to take on a new strategic role without providing it with adequate resources, men and materiel. This is all the more shortsighted given that, despite a reputation for waste, UN peacekeeping is remarkably cheap. The combined cost of its missions in 2005 was \$5 billion US, or 1/20th of U.S. costs in Iraq.

Local Media – Newspapers

Returnee Ex-Soldiers Demand Demobilization Benefit

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, New Democrat)

- Several former soldiers who recently returned from refugee camps yesterday requested the leadership of the legislature to prevail on the Ministry of National

Defense to grant them their share of the benefits provided under the demobilization process.

UNDP Says Many Heavy Weapons in Liberian War Not Accounted for

(New Democrat)

- The UNDP Small Arms Project has reported that most of the heavy weapons used in the Liberian civil war have not been retrieved.

U.S. Embassy and Gender Ministry to Commemorate Int'l Women's Month

(Daily Observer)

- The U.S. embassy Public Affairs Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development has planned series of events to commemorate the International Women Month, a U.S. embassy press release said yesterday. The events, including the screening of a movie, "She Says: Women in the News," will run until 13 March.

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

Liberian President Lauds Nigeria for Peace in Liberia

- In her address to mark the 8th anniversary of the death of Nigeria's renowned military General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that patriotism today was transcending territorial boundaries as heroes in Nigeria were also heroes in Liberia. She thanked Nigerians for their effort to restore peace to Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Extends Tour to America and Europe

- According to an Executive Mansion source, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has arrived in Europe to hold talks aimed at strengthening diplomatic relations with key European countries and Liberia. She will also visit the United States to hold similar talks with some member of the American government.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Ghanaian President Urges Liberians to Sustain the Peace

- In a statement delivered on his behalf by Ambassador Francis Adu-Amafor on the 49th Independence Anniversary of Ghana, President John Kufuor cautioned Liberians to sustain the peace currently prevailing in the country and pledged to cooperate with the Liberian government to sustain the peace.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Tertiary Institutions to Offer Courses in Liberian Studies

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, North Carolina University Professor Dr. Syrulwah Somah said that universities and colleges in Liberia have consented to offer courses in Liberian studies which he drew up to enable Liberian students to study about themselves, their culture, history and languages.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Ex-Combatants Report Remaining Weapons to UNDP

- Addressing a workshop on small arms in Monrovia yesterday, UNDP Media Consultant Professor Kojo Yankah said that ex-combatants in Foyah, Lofa County had surrendered 7 RPGs, 7 AK-47s and several rounds of ammunition to the UNDP Arms for Development Program.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

House Speaker Accuses Newspapers of Lack of Independence

- In a meeting with a delegation of World Association of Newspapers yesterday, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe said that the media were biased in their reporting, asserting that the papers were slanting the news for economic reasons.

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

Government Hospital to Shut Down for Lack of Logistics

- Redemption Hospital Chief Medical Director Dr. Kandar Golafale said recently that the referral hospital was on the verge of closing down due to the lack of basic supplies including needles, blood bags and fuel.

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 armahji@un.org.