

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



The Registrar, Principal Defender and Deputy Prosecutor, flanked by Sierra Leone's Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of Defence Staff, brief visitors from the Nigerian Command and Staff College on Friday, 5 May 2006

**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**

Monday, 8 May 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion please contact  
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**Local Press**

Only Momodu Koroma Can Free Hinga Norma / *Spectator* Pages 3-4

Kabbah Requested For Special Court / *Concord Times* Page 5

Special Court Judge Blasts Salone's Lawlessness / *Democrat* Pages 6-7

Trying Charles Taylor ... At The Hague / *New Vision* Page 8

**International Press**

History of Liberia / *Chicago Defender* Pages 9-10

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 11- 15

Spectator  
Monday, 8 May 2006

# “Only Momodu Koroma can free Hinga Norman”

## ...Hon Ansu Kaikai



The chairman for the SLPP Parliamentary Council Hon. Ansu Kaikai has declared his support for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, Alhaji Momodu Koroma to be Berewa's running mate. According to the Parliamentarian, “only Koroma can free Hinga

Norman”, by virtue of him being a member of the CDF war Council.

Speaking in an exclusive conversation with journalists last week, Hon. Kaikai said, “I believe that is the only man who, as vice president, will tell the Special Court to drop the charges against chief Norman”.

He wondered if all the others aspiring to be deputy leader of

SLPP really appreciate the love chief Norman had for the party and his efforts to restore it to power.

Mr Kai Kai also said that Momodu Koroma might not be generous, but “polite, obedient and duty conscious”. He told the journalists that Momodu Koroma had been a member of the party for a long time and that he would be in the position to allay the fears of party faithful that the

contd page 2

# “Only Momodu Koroma can free Hinga Norman”

from front page

SLPP had been hijacked.

“All those other aspirants are comparatively new in the party and have not yet totally departed from the cultures of their former parties, while the SLPP culture has not yet absorbed them”.

Hon. Kai Kai said he did not believe that some one was trying to impose Momodu Koroma on the SLPP leadership.

“But if there was any understanding that should someone clinches the leadership of the party, he should in turn pick a gentleman as running mate, there should be no quarrel now over whether that promise should be fulfilled”.

Another supporter of Momodu Koroma on the running mate issue Mr Lamin Dumbuya recalled to this press that Momodu Koroma became an executive member of the party in 1991, when he was elected organizing secretary, southern region.

Mr Dumbuya added that it was Momodu Koroma who brought Dr Prince Harding into the SLPP in 1995.

“I had almost made up my mind to join the PMDC but Momodu Koroma persuaded me to stay within the SLPP”.

Concord Times  
Monday, 8 May 2006

# “Kabbah requested for Special Court”

...*Francis Gabiddon*

*Story: Mariama Kande*

Ombudsman, Francis Gabiddon Thursday stated that the Special Court was never imposed on Sierra Leone but was set up on a request made by President Kabbah.

He made this statement during a one-day symposium organized by the Accountability Now Club (ANC) on the topic: “The Role of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone With Particular Reference to its Mandate to Prosecute those who Bear The Greatest Responsibility for Violations of International Humanitarian Law.”

The Special Court was set by a

joint international treaty between the United Nations (UN) and the Government of Sierra Leone,” he stated adding that after the May 8<sup>th</sup> 2000 incident in Freetown in which innocent and armless protestors lost their lives at the hands of the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, which led to the capture of over 500 UN peacekeepers by the RUF.

Guest Speaker of the ceremony Special Court’s Deputy Prosecutor, Dr. Christopher Staker said that the court does not have the mandate to provide security for the people of Sierra Leone and that civil society groups have varying views on where

to try the deposed indicted President of Liberia, Charles Gbankay Taylor.

“The Special Court follows equality before the law, we are not talking about corporate liability,” he stated and noted the Rule of Law should be based on evidence.

He says the court has the power to indict anyone indicted as long as they have evidence against him regardless his/her status in the society.

Syrus Lusem, Chairman ANC says the cause of the problems is lack of sensitization.

“We should come together to correct this illness in our society,” he said and adds that the Special Court has proved that no one is above the law and pledges his club’s support for Taylor’s indictment.



Democrat  
Monday, 8 May 2006

## Special Court Judge Blasts Salone's Lawlessness

*Hon. Justice Bankole Thompson, a Sierra Leonean judge presently working for the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has come down heavily on the culture of lawlessness pervading the country. The eminent legal expert used the opportunity to blast the menace while addressing Justices of the Peace during their Founders' Day Celebration at the YMCA headquarters, Freetown, last week. Read on:*

Mr. Chairman, members of the Sierra Leone Association of Justices of the Peace, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I do feel highly honoured and privileged to be invited to deliver a Speech to the Sierra Leone Association of Justices of the Peace on this occasion of the annual celebration of their Founders' Day. It is indeed gratifying to be accorded the opportunity to perform this role particularly at a time like this, in the context of our contemporary civilization, nationally and globally when the challenges to law, order and justice are both complex and formidable. I say this because the tribunal in which I officiate shares with your national justice system the tremendous and onerous task of administering justice to achieve the supreme societal goals of upholding the rule of law and the preservation of law and order.

For this reason, I have decided to speak to you this evening on the topic "**Sierra Leone's Contemporary Culture of Lawlessness: Challenges to the Lay Magistracy.**" The choice of my topic was made after much contemplation and careful deliberation because there is clear and convincing evidence that the contemporary culture of Sierra Leone has sloshed decidedly towards the direction of anomie, and can be described, in an encapsulated sense, as nothing short of a culture of lawlessness. It is not a choice actuated by academic or professional cynicism. In fact, it is my respectful, but candid submission that it does not require the intellectual energy or versatility of a nobel prize-winning jurist to discover that, our contemporary Sierra Leone culture is indisputably and demonstrably one devoid of adherence to, and respect for, two kindred core values of modern civilized existence, namely, the rule of law, and respect for the rights of others.

It is my further submission that any objective observer, be he or she a cultural historian or social historian or a layperson, who examines carefully the multi-faceted dimension of Sierra Leone's culture today, against the background of its' modern colonial ancestry and heritage, coupled with its philosophical, religious, social, political and economic underpinnings, and its progress towards full sovereign statehood in 1961, will not help but feel a strong revulsion for things contemporary that may seem aberrational to our forbearers. It is my considered view that it is such aberrational features and tendencies that have gained prominence today and have crystallized into a hard-core culture of lawlessness, becoming, as it were the new *grundnorm* (but this time one of illegality) supplanting and replacing the principle of legality as the *grundnorm* of modern civilized societies.

### **Culture Versus Phenomenon**

It may be asked, quite rightly and relevantly: Why

describe lawlessness as a culture and not as a phenomenon? My response is that the choice is deliberate. It is that the word 'phenomenon' does not semantically and linguistically adequately represent the degree to which 'lawlessness' has taken hold in the society and the regularity of its occurrence as the concept or notion of culture. In effect, the state of affairs to which I refer is so overarching that it can only be meaningfully characterized as a culture. Additionally, the term 'culture' has become, as one French scholar observed: "... a piece of all-purpose jargon that covers a hodge-podge of overlapping things. People speak and write about the culture of almost any segment of society: the counterculture, to begin with, and many subcultures: ethnic cultures, corporate cultures, teenage culture, and popular culture."

As you can see, the categories are not exhaustive. Hence, my reference to the culture of lawlessness, in exercise of my academic license.

### **Inherited Conceptions of Law**

To reinforce my contentions about the existence, in contemporary times, of an entrenched culture of lawlessness in Sierra Leone, it is necessary for me to articulate philosophically some of the major inherited conceptions of law that have guided and inspired the civilized way of life in Sierra Leone as it evolved throughout the period of colonial rule of full sovereign statehood. What are these major conceptions of law inherited from the western legal tradition, of which the Common Law is a major part? They are as follows:

- the postulate of Aquinas that law is an integral part of a normative scheme that is divine, natural and supreme;
- the Aristotelian and Ciceronian conception of law as justice by nature or as right reason;
- the view of Lon Fuller of Law as a form of inner morality;
- the Kantian view of law as the harmonizing of voluntary actions;
- the positivistic conception of law (upon which our own modern justice system is predicated) as commands, rules and norms put forward by Bentham, Mill, Austin, Hart, and Kelsen;**
- law as the manifestation of the spirit of the people in history as advanced by Savigny, Maine, and Karl Marx;
- the conception of law as the totality of social conditions as advanced by Pound, Holmes, and Llewellyn;
- law as facts evidencing legal realism as put forward by Olivecrona.

### **Images of Lawlessness**

What, then, are the constituent images of this hard-core culture of lawlessness of Sierra Leone that I speak of? It is my submission that they are discernible at two levels: the philosophical and the practical. A complete mental profile of them is only possible if they are treated as logically contrasting, if not mutually exclusive, images to those major positive images that have characterized mankind's advance towards modern civilization. In our specific national context, these are inherited values now widely acknowledged and recognized as universal and enduring, largely through the phenomenon of internationalism. They include mainly the evolution of a legal culture characterized by enlightenment, rationality, preference for a



civil rather than anarchical organization of society, a sophisticated process for the adjudication of legal disputes, protection of human rights, and above all respect for the rule of law.

One may be inclined to think that any negative imagery antithetical to the values just enumerated will, at this point in time, be perceived as retrogressive symptom characteristic of a decadent legal culture rather than an enlightened and sophisticated one. I do hesitate to make such a judgment. Nonetheless, it is true that such negative imagery may be perceived as a movement towards a normless society. I take it you would agree with me that it was the need to be emancipated from that sort of human existence that dominated the human spirit very many decades ago culminating in the prolific scholarly and philosophical outpourings of some of the celebrated western thinkers: Aquinas, Hobbes, Descartes, Rousseau, Locke, Mill and Bentham, to name a few. Unquestionably, a culture or state of lawlessness and impunity is a grave challenge to the existence and preservation of organized civil society. If Shakespeare were alive today, I believe his analysis of such a state of affairs would be in terms similar to the words he put in the mouth of one of his characters in his play JULIUS CAESAR:

"O judgment! Thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason!"

Regrettably, the abuse or misuse of the law itself as an instrument of social engineering, may be seen as contributing to a culture of lawlessness. In Sierra Leone, over the last three to four decades, the law has had a profoundly negative impact on the human environment in various respects. One analyst has noted that "law, unfortunately, has always been retained on the side of power: laws have uniformly been enacted for the protection and perpetuation of power". In my view, one implication of this is that, even though, in the traditional sense, it is conventional to celebrate and extol the institution of the law as guaranteeing the possibility of civilized existence, and promoting the enhancement of such existence, here is a widespread perception of the law as lending itself to distortion, perversion, and manipulation in order to fulfill the purposes of special interest groups, or especially those with power and influence.

It is contended that such tendencies in the application of the law may amount to an abdication on the principal of legality which is the bedrock of the law, as institution. It is also true that sometimes the law falls into disrepute when it is constantly flouted with impunity or when it becomes either unenforceable, selectively enforceable, or discriminatory of certain segments of society. These dynamics are themselves the ingredients of a culture of lawlessness. I opine strongly that the ineffectiveness or lax application of the **Road Traffic laws** and the **Public Health laws** of this country are a dismal and grotesque reminder of the deleterious effects of a culture of lawlessness.

It is, again true that the ineffectiveness of some key provisions of the **Public Order Act No. 46 of 1965**, on the one hand, and the selective enforcement or abuse of other major provisions of the said statute, do undermine significantly the principle of legality as a key norm of modern legal systems.

Contd. Next Issue

New Vision  
Monday, 8 May 2006

## Trying Charles Taylor: Justice cannot be fully achieved at The Hague

On March 29, 2006, Charles Taylor was transferred to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, making him the first former African leader to be brought to trial for alleged crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict.

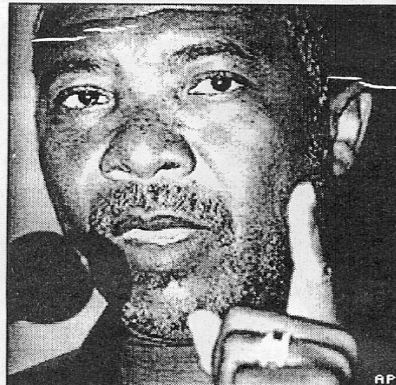
Upon his arrival in Sierra Leone, the special court immediately requested the International criminal court and the government of The Netherlands to host his trial at The Hague, fearing potential instability in the sub-region if he is tried in Sierra Leone. His trial would still be conducted by the special court, though at a different venue, distant from the victims of the war in Sierra Leone. The UN security council is set to discuss a resolution to that effect, permitting The Netherlands to host the trial. The United Kingdom and the United States have expressed support for such a resolution. It is suspected that Taylor's supporters might use his trial in Sierra Leone as a reason to cause unrest in Liberia. As important as these concerns might be, transferring Taylor to The Hague not only poses great challenges for the Special Court, but also undermines the entire rationale for having the Court in Sierra Leone in the first place.

The Special Court is a unique make-up of hybrid justice. Its statute blends domestic and international law. It sits in the country where the conflict took place, gives victims of the conflict access to the justice that they deserve, engages Sierra Leoneans in public interaction with the court and promises a meaningful legacy for the country. Taylor's transfer to the Hague negatively impacts all these objectives. It would deprive war victims of the justice that they deserve. In 2004, at the Victim's commemoration Conferences organized by the Outreach Section of the Special Court, Many victims said that they would regard the court as having been successful only if Taylor is tried. For many victims indeed, the most meaningful consolation they can get for their sufferings during the conflict is to see the person they consider as being responsible for their sufferings tried in their presence. This has been echoed by the amputees and War Wounded Association in Sierra Leone, which declares that the opportunity to witness the trial of Taylor would go a long way to heal their wounds.

The victims are the Court's primary constituency and providing some sense of justice and restitution to such victims is one of several important goals for the court. Conducting Taylor's trial in Sierra Leone will greatly satisfy this goal—a major purpose for locating the court in Sierra Leone. Taking his trial to The Hague makes justice too distant for victims of the conflict. It will also impose undue difficulty for and already financially handicapped Court. Transferring witnesses, prosecutors, judges and defense counsels will be too expensive.

The presence of the court in Sierra Leone has greatly enhanced civil society participation in the justice sector. This stands as one of the meaningful legacies that Sierra Leone can gain from the court's presence in the country. Journalists are able to report on trials first hand, thus informing the ordinary people about the court's proceedings. Victims are able to get first hand view of how alleged perpetrators are made to answer for their acts. These are all things that Sierra Leoneans stand to lose if Taylor is transferred to The Hague. It might be too demanding for the court to facilitate the presence of such victim, local media and civil society coverage at The Hague. Sierra Leoneans would be deprived of what they truly deserve.

The Court's outreach program has been doing tremendous work. They now face a harder task to extend the outreach to Liberia, to get Liberians to know how and why their Ex-President is being tried. These are already heavy tasks and taking Taylor to The Hague will make them all the more demanding. Sierra Leoneans and Liberians, especially war victims and Taylor's Family, will only get second hand information of the proceedings. Many people do not have access to television and for those who do, electricity remains a problem. How would they be able to watch proceedings takings place in the



Netherlands? If given second hand information, would they find the process credible?

If Taylor is moved to The Hague, there is the potential for Sierra Leoneans, particularly those sympathetic to Norman, to see this as unequal justice. Why does Norman sit in Sierra Leone while Taylors gets the plush confines of European jails and what will inevitably be seen as more European justice?

Security has always been a concern since the Court's inception. When guerrilla commanders were indicted, many people feared that their supporters would cause an uprising. When Chief Hinga Norman, former head of civil defense and a hero for many people, was indicted, security concerns arose. The Special Court requested the international tribunals for Rwanda and for the former Yugoslavia to provide temporary detention for him and to host his initial court appearance. These institutions refused and Norman's trial has been held in Sierra Leone ever since. Nothing has happened despite such early fears.

Now if The Hague refuses to host Taylor's trial would he not be tried in Sierra Leone? Surely, he would. So why don't we just do that job now, increase security and peace keeping efforts in the region and share the numerous benefits of holding his trial in Sierra Leone. The cost of his trial at the Hague will be enormous. So why not use that money to empower and deploy more peace keeping forces in the region? Because its proceedings are held out of Rwanda. The International Tribunal of Rwanda has been criticised for having little or no impact on the Rwandan citizenry. This is exactly what the special court is meant to avoid. Taking Taylor's trial out of Sierra Leone will defeat this purpose.

It should be noted that Sierra Leone's "hybrid" feel of the court had already been seriously undermined by the Government of Sierra Leone's decision to name a British Deputy Prosecutor and Appellate judge. Looking back on the foundations of the Court, those appointments were incredibly costly to the perception among Sierra Leoneans that this was truly a hybrid court, in seeing the long impact of an institutional shift away from what was originally promised, we see a precedent for how moving Taylor to the Hague might forever undermine Sierra Leoneans' sense of ownership over this process.

There are compelling reasons for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone, in the presence of the numerous victims of the conflict and alongside the other people already being tried by the Court. He must however be given all fair trial guarantees. Coupled with increased security in the region, the process should be smooth one that will be of good to all.

*\*The writer is an LL.M Candidate in International Human Rights Law at the Centre for civil and human Rights, University of Notre Dame, and is former Director of the Sierra Leone Court monitoring Program.*

**Culled from ActionAid International Sierra Development Magazine (To be continued)**



## Chicago Defender

Monday, 8 May 2006

<http://www.chicagodefender.com/page/local.cfm?ArticleID=5226>

### History of Liberia

Portuguese explorers established contacts with Liberia as early as 1461 and named the area Grain Coast because of the abundance of grains of Malegueta Pepper.

Africa's first republic, Liberia, "land of the free," was founded in 1820 as a result of the efforts of the American Colonization Society to settle freed American slaves in West Africa. The society contended that the immigration of blacks to Africa was an answer to the problem of slavery as well as to what it felt was the incompatibility of the races.

Chicago gears up for the first visit of Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first female head-of-state

An initial group of 86 immigrants, who came to be called Americo-Liberians, first arrived in Liberia and established a settlement in Christopolis (now Monrovia, named after U.S. President James Monroe) Feb. 6, 1820.

Over the course of 40 years, about 12,000 slaves were voluntarily relocated. Originally called Monrovia, the colony became the Free and Independent Republic of Liberia in 1847.

The drive to resettle freed slaves in Africa was promoted by the American Colonization Society, an organization of white clergymen, abolitionists, and slave owners founded in 1816 by Robert Finley, a Presbyterian minister. Between 1821 and 1867 the group resettled some 10,000 African-Americans and several thousand Africans from interdicted slave ships. The American Colonization Society governed the Commonwealth of Liberia until its independence.

In Liberia's early years, the Americo-Liberian settlers periodically encountered stiff and sometimes violent opposition from indigenous Africans, who were excluded from citizenship in the new Republic until 1904. At the same time, British and French colonial expansionists encroached upon Liberia, taking over much of its territory.

The English-speaking Americo-Liberians, descendants of former American slaves, make up only 5 percent of the population, but have historically dominated the intellectual and ruling class. Liberia's indigenous population is composed of 16 different ethnic groups. The Kpelle in central and western Liberia is the largest ethnic group.

There also are sizable numbers of Lebanese, Indians, and other West African nationals who make up a significant part of Liberia's business community. The Liberian constitution restricts citizenship only to people of Negro descent; also, land ownership is restricted by law to citizens. Ironically, Liberia's constitution denied indigenous Liberians equal rights with the lighter-skinned American emigrants and their descendants.

Share your thoughts on this story on the [ChicagoDefender.com](#) message board.

The government of Africa's first republic was modelled after that of the United States, and Joseph Jenkins Roberts of Virginia was elected the first president.

Liberia was traditionally noted for its hospitality and academic institutions, iron mining and rubber industry booms, and cultural skills and arts and craft works. But political upheavals beginning in the 1980s and the brutal 14-year civil war (1989-2003) brought about a steep decline in the living standards of the country, including its education and infrastructure.

After 1920, considerable progress was made toward opening up the interior, a process that was speeded in 1951 by the establishment of a 43-mile railroad to the Bomi Hills from Monrovia. In July 1971, while serving his sixth term as president, William V. S. Tubman died following surgery and was succeeded by his long-time associate, Vice President William R. Tolbert Jr.

Tolbert was ousted in a military coup on April 12, 1980, by Master Sgt. Samuel K. Doe, backed by the U.S. government. Doe's rule was characterized by corruption and brutality. A rebellion led by Charles Taylor, a former Doe aide, and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, started in Dec. 1989; the following year, Doe was assassinated. The Economic Community of West African States negotiated with the government and the rebel factions and attempted to restore order, but the civil war raged on.

From 1989 to 1996 one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars ensued, claiming the lives of more than 200,000 Liberians and displacing a million others into refugee camps in neighbouring countries. By April 1996, factional fighting by the country's warlords had destroyed any last vestige of normalcy and civil society. The civil war finally ended in 1997.

In what was considered by international observers to be a free election, Charles Taylor won 75 percent of the presidential vote in July 1997. For the next six years, the Taylor government did not improve the lives of Liberians. Unemployment and illiteracy stood above 75 percent, and little investment was made in the country's infrastructure. Liberia is still trying to recover from the ravages of war.

The country had next to no health care system, and the capital was without electricity and running water. Taylor supported Sierra Leone's brutal Revolutionary United Front in the hopes of toppling his neighbour's government, and in exchange for diamonds, which enriched his personal coffers. As a consequence, the UN issued sanctions.

In 2002, rebels-Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) -intensified their attacks on Taylor's government. By June 2003, LURD and other rebel groups controlled two-thirds of the country. Finally, on Aug. 11, Taylor stepped down and went into exile in Nigeria. Gyude Bryant, a businessman seen as a coalition builder, was selected by the various factions as the new president. By the time he was exiled, Taylor had bankrupted his own country, siphoning off \$100 million. According to the New York Times, Taylor left Liberia the world's poorest nation. In 2004, international donors promised more than \$500 million in aid.

In a Nov. 2005 presidential run-off election, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard educated economist who had worked at the World Bank, defeated George Weah, a former world-class soccer star. In Jan. 2006 she became Africa's first female president.

In March 2006, former president Taylor, in exile in Nigeria, was turned over to a United Nations-backed court in Sierra Leone to face 11 counts of crimes against humanity for supporting rebel troops in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war that claimed the lives of about 300,000 people in the 1990s.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 May 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

**VOA** 05 May 2006

#### **Liberian Journalists Struggle to Escape Cycle of Corruption**

By Franz Wild, Monrovia

*Earlier this week Liberia was sited as an example of great progress on World Press Freedom Day. But working conditions are still tough and many journalists resort to corruption to keep themselves afloat. For VOA, Franz Wild visited a radio station in Monrovia to find out what it is like to be a journalist in Liberia.*

To enter Sky FM's offices on Monrovia's thronging Broad Street you have to walk by its thundering generator, which throbs away 24 hours a day to keep the station's electricity supply going. David Targbe is the director of news at Sky. He says while having press freedom is a step in the right direction, Liberian journalists are still struggling. "The challenges here are very great," he said. "We are working under extremely difficult circumstances. There is a lack of requisite facilities. There is a lack of requisite benefits as a journalist. And there is a lack of equipment to make sure that our broadcasts are made easier."

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

#### **Time running out for Ivory Coast election chances, says UN official**

ABIDJAN, May 5, 2006 (AFP) - A senior United Nations official warned Friday that time was running out for the West African state of Ivory Coast to organize proper elections in time for a UN deadline in October. Gerard Stoudmann, UN High Representative responsible for the elections here, complained bitterly about a lack of preparations, saying: "We're not even in first gear. We're at a dead point."

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

#### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Says Government Supports One-China Policy**

- Speaking at a ceremony for the presentation of agriculture implements donated by China yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf described China as a true partner, adding that China has meaningfully contributed to the recovery processes of Liberia by renovating the Foreign Ministry block and national sports arena.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **UNMIL Pulls Out of Hospital in Monrovia**

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, John F. Kennedy Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Samuel Dopoe said that the United Nations Mission in Liberia has pulled out of the referral hospital. He said that he regretted the move.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **China Cancels Liberia's Debt**

- Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian yesterday announced that China has written off Liberia's debt of over US\$10 million.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

### **Côte d'Ivoire to Supply Electric Power to Liberia**

- Briefing a Senate Standing Committee yesterday, Deputy Lands, Mines and Energy Minister E.C.B. Jones said that Côte d'Ivoire has agreed to donate to Liberia a 20-megawatt power plant and would soon finalize talks on the transfer.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

### **Police Intensify Patrols at Controversial Rubber Plantation**

- In an interview, the Commander of Liberia National Police detachment at Harbel, Firestone, said that security patrols have been intensified in the area after illicit tappers had allegedly killed the company's plant protection officer, Samuel Sundaygar. Col. Samuel Grant said that the patrols would continue but that there was a need for logistics.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

### **Agriculture and Industrialization Training Bureau Hold Workshop for Examiners**

- The Agriculture and Industrialization Training Bureau yesterday commenced a training and evaluation workshop for its examiners. The Bureau's Director-General Joseph Duwor said that the workshop, sponsored by US-funded Liberia Community Infrastructure Program, would train its examiners to conduct a trade testing for other trainees in Nimba and Bong Counties.  
(Also reported on Star Radio)

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

### **UNMIL Sector Commander Calls for Focus on Rural Development**

- United Nations Mission in Liberia Sector I Commander Brig.-Gen. Donatus Edi called on Liberians to focus on development activities to upgrade the infrastructure in the countryside. He said that his Sector was helping to rehabilitate roads and bridges as well as improving the agriculture skills of rural dwellers.

### **Strange Disease Breaks Out in River Gee County**

- River Gee County District Commissioner Ben George told a correspondent that a disease believed to be leprosy has broken out at Glaro District.

### **Rural Radio Broadcasters Take Exception to Press Union Awards**

- A spokesman of the Liberia Community Radio Broadcasters Association said that the group was unhappy that its members were excluded from the just-ended Press Union of Liberia awards program.

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](mailto:armahj@un.org).

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 May 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

*[There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today]*

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Court convicts 36 in Ivory Coast for 2005 attack**

ABIDJAN, May 5, 2006 (AFP) - A military tribunal in the Ivory Coast has convicted and sentenced 36 people for their roles in July 2005 attacks north of the capital that left 24 dead, local media reported Friday. Forty-two civilians -- including many nationals from neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso -- along with a policeman captured shortly after the attacks faced charges of "murder, forming an armed group, participating in an armed insurrection, and disrupting public order," the reports said.

**EU Promises Multi Million Dollar Donation to Restore Peace**

**Abidjan**, May 04, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The European Union is poised to donate some 100 million euros, or 126 million dollars, to help restore peace in Cote d'Ivoire, including funds to supply water and sanitation to the most vulnerable population, officials said on Thursday. The pledge makes the EU one of the largest donors to the war-torn West African country.

**Local Media – Newspapers**

**President Says Taylor Must Pay Defense Team**

*(The News and The Inquirer)*

- Appearing on the monthly radio program, "Conversation with the President," President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf clarified that contrary to widespread speculations and media reports, former President Charles Taylor will have to underwrite the cost of his legal defense as the Government of Liberia had made no commitment to do so.

**President Disagrees with Media's Assessment of Government**

*(Heritage)*

- Appearing on a monthly radio program yesterday, President Ellen Johnson- Sirleaf said that her administration has made a lot of progress, countering the media assessment of the government as having failed so far in several departments.
- She said that within three months, the government had significant progress in resource mobilization both domestically and internally.

### **Pro-Democracy Group to Sponsor Debate for Rivercess County By-Election**

*(The News and The Analyst)*

- The International Republican Institute (IRI) will on Tuesday host in Cestos city, a debate for five certified candidates for the Rivercess County by-election for District No. 1 seat in the House of Representatives, an IRI press release said yesterday.

### **UNMIL Rights Report Bemoans Condition of Rubber Plantations' Workers**

*(The News, The Inquirer and New Democrat)*

- The UNMIL human rights situation report released recently pointed out the workers of five main rubber plantations in Liberia—Firestone, Guthrie, Liberian Agriculture Company, Cavalla and Sinoe Rubber Plantation--are being subjected to abuses, including the denial of the right to fair wage, exposure to hazardous working conditions, poor housing and non-existent or inadequate healthcare.

### **Nearly 40,000 Liberian Mercenaries Operate in Ivory Coast**

*(The Liberian Diaspora)*

- There are reportedly at least 37,000 Liberian ex-combatants providing mercenary services to both sides in the war in neighboring Ivory Coast—the government militia and the New Forces rebels.

### **U.S. Appoints Military Advisor to Liberia**

*(The Inquirer)*

- Defense Minister Brownie Samukai said yesterday that the U.S. had appointed Col. James L. Dew Jr. of the of the U.S. Air Force base in Germany as the Senior Military Advisor to the Government of Liberia.

### **National Police Begins Deactivation Exercise Today**

*(Heritage and The Informer)*

- With the support of international partners, the Liberia National Police will today begin the deactivation of over 2000 police officers

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

#### **UN Envoy Ends Tour of Duty in Liberia**

- Honoring the departing United Nations Children Educational Fund Country Representative Angela Kearney, Crusaders for Peace Director Judi Endee Tarpeh lauded Ms. Kearney for her contribution to improving the wellbeing of children in Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Police Nab Suspected Murderers of Plant Protection Officer**

- A police spokesman yesterday said that security forces in Margibi County have arrested 23 suspected murderers of an officer of the Firestone Plant Protection Department. The police had launched a manhunt for some illicit tappers who allegedly killed Officer Samuel Sundaygar when he and other officers attempted to stop the tappers from illegally tapping the company's rubber.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*



### **Auditors Say Government Payrolls Bloated with Ghost Names**

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, the President of the Mombo and Company auditing firm said that the payrolls of three ministries of government were bloated with ghost names. He said the Ministries of Health, Education and Internal Affairs should drop ghost names from the payrolls.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Interior Ministry Holds Discussions on Community Development**

- According to a press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has initiated consultations with key stakeholders to evolve guidelines on community development. The guidelines will focus on the selection of projects, funding and monitoring.

### **National Bar Secretary Calls on Liberians to Respect the Law**

- In an interview yesterday, Liberian National Bar Association Secretary-General James Barboe called on his compatriots to respect the law to enhance national development. Cllr. Barboe cited some improvements, with the rule of law since the inception of the government, including the absence of arbitrary arrests of the population.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Peace Group to Lobby Lawmakers for National Peace Council**

- A press statement issued yesterday said that the Universal Peace Federation would initiate a legislative bill to establish a national peace council to address issues of peace and security in Liberia.

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

### **Housing Authority to Launch Mortgage Scheme Tomorrow**

- The National Housing Authority said that it would launch a mortgage scheme tomorrow for its housing estates at Stephen Tolbert, Jonathan Goodridge, New Georgia, Old and New Matadi.

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