

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



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 May 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Row Over Taylor's Acquittal / <i>Spectator</i>	Page 3
West Side Boys Demand Compensation / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 4
Is ICC Doing the Job of a Failed African Judiciary? / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 5

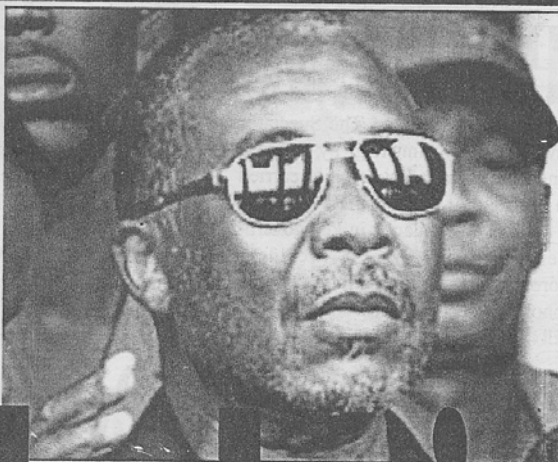
International News

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary	Pages 6-8
-----------------------------------------------	-----------

Spectator
Friday, 8 May 2009

All Stories Inside Pages

Row Over Taylor's Acquittal



not examine other modes of liability, that is, aiding and abetting, planning, instigating, ordering, and superior responsibility.

"The Trial Chamber agrees with the Prosecution that it is not necessary for the purposes of Rule 98 to evaluate the sufficiency of the evidence in relation to each mode of liability and that it is sufficient if there is evidence capable supporting a conviction on the basis of one of those modes," Justice Richard Lussick said in reading out the Chamber's decision. "In relation to the alleged participation of the accused, the Trial Chamber finds that there is evidence that the accused participated in the joint criminal enterprise."

Justice Lussick emphasized that the standard for determining sufficiency of evidence under Rule 98 "is not evidence on which a Trial Chamber

Continued page 2

President Charles Taylor. This means that Mr. Taylor has a case to answer on all 11 counts of the indictment.

The Trial Chamber ruled that the Prosecution had presented sufficient evidence on all counts which, if believed, would be capable of supporting a conviction. The Chamber made its finding based on the joint criminal enterprise mode of liability, and ruled that it need

Trial Chamber dismisses Motion for Judgment of Acquittal, Orders Taylor Defence to Open on June 29. The Judges of Trial Chamber II in The Hague have dismissed in its entirety a Motion for Judgment of Acquittal brought Under Rule 98 by Defence counsel on behalf of former Liberian

Row Over Taylor's Acquittal

From front page

should convict, but evidence on which it could convict." The Chamber ordered that the Taylor Defence open their case on 29 June 2009. A Pre-Defence Conference will take place on 8 June 2009.

Mr. Taylor is expected to take the stand in his own defence. Under the Special Court's Rules, he will be the first witness to testify in the Defence case.

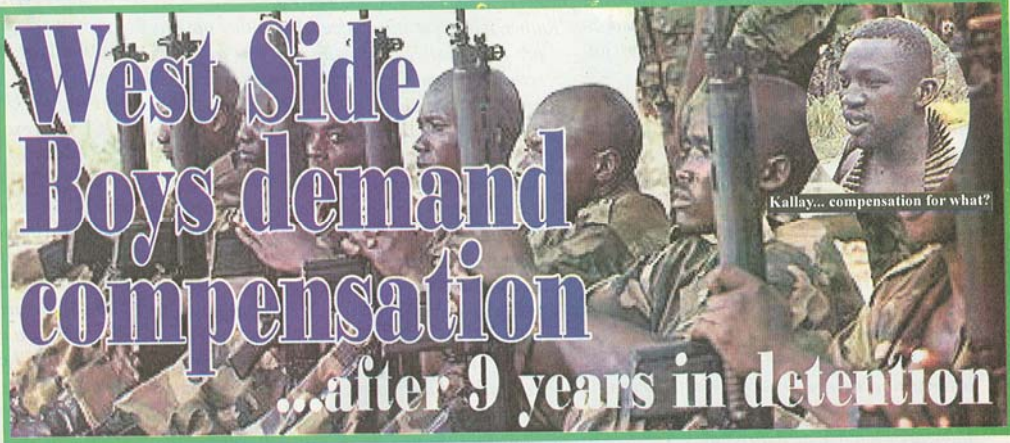
Standard Times
Friday, 8 May 2009

The seven Westside Boys that were detained by the SLPP Government on 1st September 2000 are currently in a state of confusion, depressed and thinking of ways to reconcile with the entire society which had branded them as enemies.

The seven include, Foday Kallay, Mohamed Savage, Alhaji Fofanah, Foday Kamara, Osman Sesay, Mohamed Bangura and Samuel Kargbo. Since their release on 28th April 2009 they have made moves to gain their rights in society after serving what they refer to as an unlawful detention by the Court.

Speaking on behalf of the seven, Samuel Kargbo told journalists at a press conference held on Thursday at the Prison Watch office that they have been transformed in the prison and they are now ready to take part in nation building.

As born-again Christians, Kargbo told the press that after serving nine years in detention, the present Government should come to their aid and help them get jobs so that they can live a more positive life. "We do not have any hidden agenda, nor do we have grudge for anybody", he said, and added that the **CONTINUED PAGE 19**



West Side Boys demand compensation

Government should show concern and work with them Osman Sesay informed the press that after their release they have made several moves to re-enter the army or get their benefit for their services in the Army. He said that they are prevented from achieving this goal because the Court has failed to provide them with discharge cards. He appealed to the President and Chief Justice to come to their aid so that they forget totally about the past. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop. We don't want to remain idling around, this is why we want the support of Government", Sesay said.

A press release from Prison Watch has strongly condemned the over detention of the former Westside Boys, noting that they were detained beyond their actual period of detention which should have ended on 1st June 2007 instead of 28th April 2009.

The release states that "Prison Watch-Sierra Leone views the decision of the Hon. Chief Justice, Her Lordship Justice Umu Tejan Jalloh to review the decision of Judge Hamilton in respect of the Westside Boys as a remarkable

demonstration of the commitment of the judiciary under her stewardship to ensure that justice and respect for the rule of law prevails regardless of status, tribe, religion, and reassuring the trust of the citizenry and reaffirming the impartiality of the role of the Judiciary in the dispensation of justice."

The organization's Program Coordinator, Mambu S. Feika said that the Judiciary should explain as to who is responsible for the over detention of the Westside Boys.

"To hold a convicted person beyond the period of detention as prescribed by law is illegal and constitutes a very severe human right violation. We recognize the right of the Westside Boys to compensation for illegal detention", Mr. Feika said.

However, reports reaching this press states that Sergeant Abdul Sesay who was arrested few years back for unlawful possession of arms at Lungi and detained at Pademba Road Prisons, has gone mad. He is reported to be causing trouble for Prisoners at the Pademba Road Prisons.

Standard Times
Friday, 8 May 2009

Is ICC doing the job of a failed African Judiciary?

Following the indictment in March of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court, and the fact that the rest of the court's cases involve crimes committed by Africans, one wonders how "international" the ICC is. The court has been "taken" over by Africans. The ICC currently is either carrying out investigations or has already attained an advanced stage in certain procedures for situations in four African countries.

Only one of these, the Darfur situation was not initiated by the government of the country itself. The ICC became involved in the three other situations northern Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic on the invitation of the authorities of those countries, who themselves now drag their feet in assisting the court to complete its mission. Darfur was referred to the court by the UN Security Council.

Should Africans and the African Union have an alternative to the International Criminal Court? To find answer, ask yourself whether there are even five African countries with judicial systems that can try grievous crimes fairly and equitably through an effective court structure. What continental judicial institution currently exists that can effectively try those accused of wrongdoing? The ICC is a court of last resort. Its treaty provides that the Court will not interfere into the judicial system of any

country if the country is able and willing to try equitably those accused of grievous crimes.

The Congolese warlord, Lubanga Dyilo, for example, would not be tried at the ICC if the judicial system of the Democratic Republic of Congo were capable of handling such alleged criminals fairly. The ICC has not replaced viable national efforts.

Rather, it helps attain justice where other options are not possible. If anything, it has probably reduced the number of ad hoc international tribunals that would have been created to address crimes in Africa had the ICC not been established. African governments are infamous for waiting until things deteriorate completely and then blaming the United Nations, Europe, or the United States of America for non-intervention. For instance, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Rwanda, Somalia, and Zimbabwe are all current situations that have either already deteriorated or are currently being allowed to deteriorate. Pan African judicial institutions are either dormant or still have to go beyond the stage of the conventions that created them. Everyone agrees that there is impunity for abuses at the highest levels on the continent. It is also agreed that these crimes are perpetrated in most cases by the very leaders who are supposed to protect the people. Africans also agree that a judicial institution on the continent or elsewhere is needed to try and punish those perpetrating such crimes.

COMMENTARY

The best and maybe only option for Africa, for the time being is the ICC, which has still not been doing a tremendous job despite the difficult circumstances. Africa's support for the work of the ICC will not only help reduce impunity and grievous crimes, but will go a long way to make democracy and good governance a reality even when our countries' constitutions give our leaders immunity.

The Pan African Lawyers Union met recently to support the position of the African Union in asking the UN Security Council to suspend the ICC's arrest warrant against President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan. It is truly disturbing that legal practitioners should mix themselves up with politicians in a venture that can only be lethal to the very ideals they should defend. Suspension of the ICC's case against al-Bashir would cripple the Court's independence and its credibility as a judicial institution.

It would also endorse impunity for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity and encourage the government's notion that it can do what it pleases if the 12-month suspension permissible under the ICC statute were to be approved. It is important that the ICC addresses the worst crimes that fall within its mandate wherever they occur, and this will mean expanding its cases beyond Africa.

The ICC has already begun the initial work in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Georgia, where crimes are under analysis by the court. Some serious crimes have been committed in countries that are not parties to the court and we all need to work for wider membership of the ICC. This commentary would like countries to move beyond just being signatories and ratify the ICC treaty. But no one can deny that many horrible crimes that merit the ICC's attention


United Nations **Nations Unies**
 United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 May 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian Leader to Address University of Tampa in Florida

May 07, 2009 (All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will this weekend deliver the commencement address at the University of Tampa in Florida (U.S.A.). The invitation to deliver this year's commencement address was extended to the President by American millionaire David Straz, who is also Liberia's honorary consul to the State of Florida.

Mr. Straz, who is also a major Trustee and supporter of the University of Tampa, has in turn committed to financing the completion of the higher education technical institute in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County. The project is estimated at a little over USD\$1 million.

The bulk of the President's expenses to Tampa have been taken care of by Mr. Straz, including travel to Florida and back to Monrovia in his private plane, which took off the morning of May 7.

International Clips on West Africa

French Photographer Freed after Being Held for 16 Months in Abidjan

May 07, 2009 (Reporters sans Frontieres/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Reporters Without Borders hails the provisional release today of French photographer Jean-Paul Ney, who had been held in Abidjan since late December 2007 in connection with a conspiracy to overthrow the Ivorian government known as the "Christmas in Abidjan" affair.

"Although the 'Christmas in Abidjan' case has not yet given up all its secrets and although Ney's role has yet to be clarified, we are relieved and pleased by his release," Reporters Without Borders said. "After 16 grim months of detention in the Abidjan penitentiary, Ney should be able to be reunited with his family in France."

The provisional release of Ney and all the other persons held in connection with the case was ordered this afternoon by a court in Abidjan-Plateau. Ney's Ivorian lawyer, Minta Traore, was at the court when the release order was issued. Ney had been charged in January 2008 with "conspiracy against state authority" and "attempted violence."

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberia Becoming Better for Business... As More Reforms Take Place

(Daily Observer)

- The Daily Observer reports that Liberia is gradually becoming a better place to do business as the country's public private dialogue has once again announced the attainment of additional reforms. The reforms, totalling 18, are expected to make it better, easier and faster to do business in the country.
- The first of such achievements was announced last year when the Liberia Better Business Forum (LBBF), in collaboration with Business Reform Committee (BRC), published a list of 21 reforms they had achieved which now sums up to 39 the number of reforms that Liberia has attained in two years. Some Senior Executives of the LBBF and the BRC yesterday presented

a scroll containing the 18 improvements to the Government through Vice President Joseph Boakai.

- The improvement among other things include the elimination of annual registration requirement of businesses at the Ministry of Commerce, establishment of a centralized facility at the Freeport to provide a single location for clearance and the significant reduction of fees from the Monrovia City Corporation.

FPAL Opens Clinic in Gbarnga Today

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer)

- The Family Planning Association of Liberia (FPAL) will today dedicate its youth clinic in Gbarnga, Bong County. The clinic is expected to address Sexual and Reproductive Health needs of the youthful population of Gbarnga and its surroundings.
- An FPAL release said the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is one of the major donors of the association in Liberia. The UNFPA is currently providing funds for the implementation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and other services in seven counties.

Local Media – Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

House of Representatives Mandates Justice Minister to Provide Details on Usage of over US\$500,000 Taken From CBL

- Justice Minister Philip Banks has been mandated to provide written submission about the over half a million United States dollars seized from a Nigerian.
- Speaking during the start of the investigation into the alleged illegal usage of the money, the Chairman of the House joint investigative committee, Representative Saah Gbollie, ordered Minister Banks to submit his written response by tomorrow.
- Representative Gbollie told the Minister that the submission is crucial as a legal requirement to begin the probe.

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

Civil Society, Political Parties Want Referendum Bills Promptly Pass

- Several civil society groups and political parties have called on the Senate to promptly concur with the House of Representatives in passing referendum bills before it.
- The groups said the passage of the bills will give the National Elections ample time to conduct its pre-election activities.
- They urged the Legislature to be mindful of the consequences of delaying the threshold bill which is crucial to the 2011 elections
- The groups called on the Executive to provide explanation why the statistics House, LISGIS is yet to release the final census results.

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

Nigerian National Defense College Delegation Visits TRC

- A delegation from the Nigerian National Defence College on Wednesday visited the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).
- The visit of the 25-member delegation is in continuation of the group's Geo-strategy World Study Tour to Liberia.
- The study is under the "Post Conflict Peace Building Efforts in Liberia: Challenges and Prospects".
- Welcoming the delegation to the TRC, Chairman Jerome Verdier said the commission's recommendation will help in the consolidation of peace in the country.

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

Truth F.M. (News monitored today at 10:00 am)

US\$1.5 Million Earmarked for Implementation of National Plan of UN Resolution 1325

- The Italian Government through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has provided US\$1.5 million for the implementation of the National Action Plan for UN Resolution 1325.

- UN Resolution 1325 was passed by the Security Council for women's participation in the promotion of peace and decision making among other.
- Speaking Wednesday in Monrovia, UNIFEM Country Representative to Liberia, Izeduwa Derex Briggs said the initiative is geared towards women's leadership in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution.
- Gender and Development Minister, Vabah Gayflor praised the efforts of the Italian Government and UNIFEM saying the donation will help the ministry in reaching to the beneficiaries.

GOL, Denmark Sign US\$18M Women Empowerment Pact

- The Governments of Liberia and Denmark have signed 100 million Danish Kroner approximately US\$18 million to support the economic empowerment of Liberian women.
- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan and Gender Minister Vabah Gayflor signed on behalf of the Liberian Government while Danish Ambassador to Liberia, Stig Barlyng signed on behalf of his government.
- The funding will provide technical support for the Ministry of Gender and Development and all activities jointly planned and implemented by relevant ministries and agencies.
