

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



The ICRC-sponsored Moot Court competition held on Tuesday at the Special Court. See today's 'Special Court Supplement' for photos.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as at:

Wednesday, 9 August 2006

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

Wednesday, 9 August 2006

The Story of Zogie: Five Year Old Boy Returns to Freetown with Repaired Heart

[Note: Zogie is the son of Yema Ganda of Public Affairs]

PARIS

Only 33 days after leaving Freetown, the chronically ill five-year old Ehizogie "Zogie" Ighobor, who has suffered from severe pulmonary stenosis of the heart valve since birth, has successfully returned to Sierra Leone with a new lease on life.

Miracles consist of 80% hard work and 20% luck. Today, Sierra Leone can boast of its second miracle this year, as little Zogie Ighobor successfully received emergency open-heart surgery in Paris's ultra-modern Pompidou European Hospital and then recovered in record time at the Chateau de la Cote cardiaque hospice for children in the French countryside not far from Versailles. Early on Sunday morning I drove the spirited boy and his jubilant although exhausted mother, Yema Ganda, to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris and placed Zogie and Yema onto a crowded SN Brussels flight to Belgium, where they were met by Pikin Bizness founder Adonis Abboud, who continues and continued on to the Sierra Leonean capital.

Zogie has become the latest success story for Pikin Bizness and its Paris and Boston-based partner AnglophoneMedia. Essentially, Abboud and I are running our own underground railroad for critically ill children. We have helped save two lives in this way; we have a list of 150 Sierra Leonean children and we are determined to save them all. In Paris, the

medical logistics were provided by a remarkably compassionate former nurse Daninelle DeMoly of La Chaîne de l'Espoir organization, directed by legendary heart doctor Dr. Alain Deloche, who had been contacted on our behalf by cardiologist, Kamel Abdennbi. The heart surgeon Dr. Chauvaud and his team at the Pompidou Hospital provided the operation based on the diagnosis of Professor Daniel Sidi and his team at Necker Hospital for children.

Following the dramatic recovery of 6 year old Abubakarr Jalloh, whose hole-in-the-heart condition was repaired in Paris's Hospital Necker by professor Leca and her Mecenat Cardiologue, Zogie's mother Yema Ganda, a journalist at the UN Special Court in Freetown, contacted Adonis Abboud and emailed myself in hope of finding a miracle for her frail son, who weighed 15 kilos and whose life has been in peril since he passed out as an infant of only several weeks. It took six months to organize Zogie's medical sejour to France.

Admittedly, the story has a happy ending, but rather tragic sub-plot.

Zogie's life has been saved, but the country continues to suffer from a severe lack

of equipment and trained professionals. There is a dramatic need for more cardiologists in Sierra Leone, and there is not even one cardio sonagram machine in the capital, a sophisticated but commonplace tool needed for all accurate diagnosis. The sonagram is the backbone of not only heart and vascular cases, and critically necessary in detecting problems in pregnancy, Freetown's sole cardiologist, German-trained Dr. Olu Black was able to evaluate Zogie's condition due to his long and valuable expertise.

AnglophoneMedia plan to ask President Kabbah to invite Professor Sidi and Ms. DeMoly to Freetown to set up a diagnostic clinic to examine the children who await cardiac treatment. Little Zogie suffered from an acute stenosis of the pulmonary valve which had closed down to the size of a pinhole, although no one in West Africa had been able to affirm whether open heart surgery was needed. Zogie's parents, Kingsley Ighobor, owner of the Concord Newspaper, and Ms. Ganda have spent a horrific five years lugging their weak son to Banjul, Dakar, Abuja, and finally Accra in search of help, the only medical specialist who con-

tinued the urgency of the operation was Dr. Desmond Olu-Black. Now, only a month and five days after undergoing open heart surgery five year old Ehizogie Ighobor, is a new boy with a promising future. Both of his parents have expressed great gratitude to everyone involved in the process of saving Zogie, and are committed to helping us save more children and obtain the much needed sonagram machine.

Providing heart surgery in Europe is a costly procedure, and the budget for Zogie's intervention which mounted to around 10,000 euros was by pieced together with contributions from Abboud's Pikin Bizness, AnglophoneMedia, La Chaine de l'Epoir, Dr. Sidi's team, and Zogie's parents.

Zogie's father recalled by email that he wept when he heard his son's voice after the operation, when he called me "papa", I wept. I wept because I realized he has just been rescued from the grip of death and we can now, as parents, plan and plot his future - not rushing to the next hospital. For the first time since his birth, we can really rest assured that he's got a future. Mr. Abboud and myself wish to help extend that future to as many of Sierra Leone's children as possible.

Salone Times
Wednesday, 9 August 2006

WHY CASES ARE DELAYED AT CENTRAL POLICE COURTS

By Mohamed Kalokoh

Court Staff of the newly allocated courtrooms on the top floor of the Central Police station in Freetown has complained about inadequate and non-functional facilities and water facilities.

It was reported that Magistrate and Justices of the Peace (J.P.'S) find it extremely strenuous to leave the courtrooms in order to attend to the call of nature. This situation according to

court staff has led to a snail pace in the handling of cases, leading to frequent adjournments.

SALONE TIMES learnt that the courts rooms are not only small but Clark even at daytime. It was

further learnt that the supply of electricity to the building is another problem. On several occasions, Court Clerks due to insufficient light read out Court charges wrongly to accused persons.

A court orderly speaking to SALONE TIMES disclosed that prisoners taken to the court sometimes uri-

nate on the bare floor causing the whole place to stink, due to lack of toilet facilities. The Master and Registrar, Musu Kamara could not be contacted to comment on the status of the newly allocated courtrooms at the Central Police Station. She was reported to be very busy on two occasions.

United Nations Security Council

Tuesday, 8 August 2006

Source: Security Council Report

Date: 08 Aug 2006

Peace Consolidation in West Africa Update Report No. 1

Expected Council Action

The Council is expected to adopt a presidential statement on peace consolidation in West Africa, following the open debate scheduled for 9 August.

The debate comes as an initiative from the Ghana, the Council's President for the month of August. It is intended to keep momentum on West African issues and reiterate the importance the Council attaches to the consolidation of peace processes currently taking place in West Africa.

A draft presidential statement was circulated and is currently under negotiation. It is expected that the statement will welcome the transition from war to constitutional rule in several countries of the region and stress the importance of key areas such as small arms and light weapons, natural resources, capacity-building, security sector reform and cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Background

A concept paper was circulated last week by the Ghanaian Mission. It draws attention to the fact that a number of countries in the region have recently faced conflict and are progressively transitioning out of war. It points out that the situations in Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone are "stable but fragile". It also highlights some of the challenges currently facing those countries, such as slow economic recovery, the extension of state authority, institutional weakness and lack of expertise, corruption, the return of refugees, security sector reform and the reintegration of former combatants, as well as key themes such as cooperation with regional organisations and the role of the international community in peacebuilding.

Overview of Past Council Action

The Council created in 2002 an Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, but the Group has not played a major role in responding to specific African situations on the Council's agenda. It has largely concentrated on private consultations and the occasional holding of seminars.

Instead, the Council has itself devoted significant attention to peace and security issues in Africa, including West Africa, in the context of:

- conflict prevention and resolution generally in Africa (resolution 1625 and presidential statements 1997/46 and 1998/29);
- thematic discussions on cross-border issues, particularly in West Africa (presidential statements 2004/7 and 2005/9);
- the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the strengthening of Council arms embargoes (resolutions 1196, 1209 and 1467, and presidential statement 2005/7);
- enhancement of African conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacities (resolution 1197 and presidential statement 1998/28);
- refugees (resolution 1208); and
- country-specific action, particularly in Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

As a result of the outbreak of multiple civil wars in West Africa starting in the early 1990s, and in addition to the creation of a number of peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices in those countries, the Council has resorted to a variety of sanctions regimes, ranging from arms, diamonds, timber and oil embargoes to targeted measures such as travel bans and assets freezes in Côte D'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Council missions to the region were also carried out in 2003 and 2004.

The region also witnessed some of the first instances of cooperation in peacekeeping between the UN and a regional organisation - ECOWAS. The increase in cooperation among UN offices and peacekeeping operations in the area, steps taken against Charles Taylor in the context of his indictment before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and support for the work of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) on increasing subregional cooperation are also examples of an integrated, cross-border focus.

With the conclusion of the transitional processes in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and with efforts in that direction being implemented in Côte d'Ivoire, the Council's attention has gradually shifted to peacebuilding. In particular, the Council has referred Sierra Leone to the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which, following ongoing consultations, is expected to hold its first formal country-specific meeting on the situation in early September.

A number of reports of the Secretary-General has identified cross-border challenges and has made recommendations both at the international, regional and country-specific levels. While the Council has been supportive of most of the Secretary-General's initiatives, especially his proposals for the sharing of troops between UN peacekeeping operations, some of the recommendations have not yet been accepted by Council members. In particular, the proposal for the establishment of a UN peacekeeping subregional reserve force in West Africa to be deployed to support UN forces in other mission areas has not yet been taken up by the Council.

UN Documents

Selected Security Council Resolutions

- S/RES/1631 (17 October 2005) addressed the issue of cooperation between the UN and regional organisations.
- S/RES/1625 (14 September 2005) was a declaration on the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa.
- S/RES/1467 (18 March 2003) and 1209 (19 November 1998) addressed the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in West Africa and in the whole continent respectively.
- S/RES/1208 (19 November 1998) addressed the provision of security to refugees and the maintenance of the civilian character in refugee camps.
- S/RES/1197 (18 September 1998) contained measures to assist in the enhancement of African peacekeeping and conflict prevention capabilities and to improve coordination with the UN.
- S/RES/1196 (16 September 1998) addressed the strengthening of the effectiveness of arms embargoes in Africa.

Selected Presidential Statements

- S/PRST/2005/9 (25 February 2005) and 2004/7 (25 March 2004) considered cross-border and subregional problems in West Africa.
- S/PRST/2005/7 (17 February 2005) addressed the issue of small arms and light weapons.
- S/PRST/1998/29 and (24 September 1998) and 1997/46 (25 September 1997) marked the convening of ministerial-level meetings and addressed key steps for peace in Africa.
- S/PRST/1998/28 (16 September 1998) affirmed that the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity is a key priority, *inter alia*.

Reports of Council Missions to West Africa

- S/2004/525 (2 July 2004)
- S/2003/688 (7 July 2003)

Selected Secretary-General's Reports

- A/60/182 (1 August 2005) and A/59/285 (20 August 2004) are progress reports on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.
- S/2005/135 (2 March 2005) is the report on inter-mission cooperation in West Africa.
- S/2005/86 (11 February 2005) and S/2004/200 (12 March 2004) are reports on ways to combat subregional and cross-border issues in West Africa.
- A/59/591 (30 November 2004) and A/50/711 - S/1995/911 (1 November 1995) are reports on improving African peacekeeping capacity.
- A/54/63 - S/1999/171 (12 February 1999) is the Secretary-General's report on enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity.
- A/52/871 - S/1998/318 (13 April 1998) is the report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Other Relevant Documents

- S/2006/610 (3 August 2006) was the concept paper circulated by Ghana for the debate on peace consolidation in West Africa.
- PBC/OC/1/2 (21 June 2006) referred Burundi and Sierra Leone to the PBC.
- S/2005/833 (30 December 2005) contained the latest annual report of the Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.
- S/2005/16 (11 January 2005) contained the mandate, functions and activities of UNOWA for the period expiring on 31 December 2007.
- S/2002/207 (1 March 2002) contained the terms of reference for the Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Other Relevant Facts

Chair of the Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Ambassador Basile Ikouebe (Congo)

Representatives of the Secretary-General

West Africa: Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)

Côte D'Ivoire: Pierre Schori (Sweden)

Guinea-Bissau: João Bernardo Honwana (Mozambique)

Liberia: Alan Doss (United Kingdom)

Sierra Leone: Victor da Silva Ângelo (Portugal)

UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

Size as of 30 June 2006: 6 international civilians; 9 local civilians

Duration: November 2001 to present

Mandate Expires: 31 December 2007

UN Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)

Size as of 30 June 2006: 13 international civilians; 2 military advisers; 1 police adviser

Duration: March 1999 to present

Mandate Expires: 31 December 2006

UN Operation in Côte D'Ivoire (UNOCI)

Total authorised strength: 8,115 military personnel and 1,200 police

Strength as of 6 July 2006: 6,896 military personnel and 728 police

Key troop contributors: Bangladesh, Morocco, Ghana and Pakistan

Cost: 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007: \$438.37 million

Duration: April 2004 to present

Mandate Expires: 15 December 2006

UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

Total authorised strength: up to 14,783 military personnel and 1,240 police

Strength as of 30 June 2006: 14,794 military personnel and 1,042 police

Key troop contributors: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Nigeria

Cost: 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007: \$745.57 million

Duration: September 2003 to present

Mandate Expires: 30 September 2006

UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)

Size as of 31 December 2005: 159 international staff, 228 local staff, 10 military observers, 20 police, 83 UN Volunteers

Cost: \$23.3 million (estimated)

Duration: 1 January 2006 to present

Mandate Expires: 1 January 2007

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

LIBERIA: HIV/AIDS education, a first for Liberian classrooms

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

MONROVIA, 8 Aug 2006 (IRIN/PLUSNEWS) - HIV/AIDS will be on the curriculum next month for 10,000 Liberian students at the Lutheran Church School System, the third largest church-school network in Liberia, which has made HIV/AIDS education mandatory in its 40 schools. This is the first time that Liberian school children will receive HIV/AIDS education in the classroom in a country where HIV infection was estimated in 2003 by UNAIDS to be 5.9 percent, or 8.2 percent by Liberian health authorities. More recent figures on infections are not available, although a survey by the UN children's agency UNICEF in 2005 found one-third of 10-25 years olds in Lofa County in the north of the country had never heard of AIDS,

08/07/2006 14:32:50

Will Charles Taylor Spill the Beans?

By Thomas Kargbo

Aug 03, 2006 (Standard Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The fears that a Charles Taylor trial within the shores of Sierra Leone would have a negative impact on the peace processes in both Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia are now over. That is to say the Special Court's legal acrobats succeeded in mitigating such fears with cogent arguments that witnessed the transfer of the Special Court's jurisdiction to The Hague.

International Clips on West Africa

AP 08/07/2006 18:40:02

Security Council concerned about Ivory Coast's preparations for upcoming vote

By NICK WADHAMS

UNITED NATIONS_The U.N. Security Council expressed its concern Monday about Ivory Coast's preparations for October elections, saying it was worried that the country's electoral commission was not present in some parts of the country. The council statement also highlighted that an identification program had also not reached the entire West African nation. An estimated 3.5 million of Ivory Coast's 17 million people live in the country without proper identity papers. The council "urges the Ivorian parties to settle these issues without delay," the statement said.

Local Media – Newspaper

Government Says Deputy SSS Boss Was Never Arrested

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Heritage, The Dairy and The Informer)

- The Liberian government has clarified that the Deputy Director of the Special Security Service, Ashford Peal, was never arrested but was instead called by the Police to provide statement since he was on the scene of the shootout at the residence of his boss, Chris Massaquoi.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio told a news conference on Monday that Peal is not under arrest and that he was performing his normal assigned security functions. The Ministry of Justice had earlier said that Mr. Peal was suspected of masterminding the shootout and that he was being probed by the police.

Speaker Snowe Defends Salary Increment for Civil Servants

(Heritage)

- Addressing reporters over the weekend, Speaker Edwin Snowe said that the adjustments made in the draft national budget by the House of Representatives were primarily aimed at addressing the needs of the people who voted them to power.
- He cited the hike in the prices of commodities such as the nation's staple, rice, and petroleum products as reasons why the salaries of civil servants must be augmented.

Forensic Experts Combed Executive Mansion to Determine Cause of Fire

(Heritage)

- A team of five arson experts from South Africa, armed with sniff dogs, rummaged through the burnt floors of the Executive Mansion on Saturday to establish cause of the fire incident. The team has already left the country to further investigate pieces of evidence gathered from the scene of the incident.

Rights Group Wants UNMIL Takes over National Security Until

(The Informer and The News)

- The Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) has urged the United Nations Mission in Liberia to take over the security of the nation until people are convinced that State security personnel are mature enough to handle the security of the State.
- FIND also wants the government to withdraw all arms, which have been assigned to State security personnel in the country. The group also urged the government to commit itself to the ongoing security sector reform and absorb individuals whose track records are well refined with the requisite qualifications to partake in the process.

Supreme Court Halts Printing of Ballot Papers in Margibi By-Election

(The Informer and The News)

- The Supreme Court of Liberia on Monday halted the printing of ballot papers for the By-election in Margibi County until it determines a case filed against the National Elections Commission by an aspirant for the Representative seat, Cyril Allen.
- The Court warned that any attempt to proceed with the printing of ballot papers would be an affront to the Supreme Court.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Supreme Court Halts Preparation for Margibi County By-Election

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Human Rights Group Wants Weapons Withdrawn from Security Personnel

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Former Deputy Minister Calls for Radical Reform in Local Government

- At a ceremony to handover affairs to newly appointed Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Estella Liberty in Monrovia yesterday, the outgoing Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Soko Sackor, called for a radical transformation of the local governments by building their capacities in order to cope with the development plans of government. He urged government to ensure that Liberia's villages are turned into towns and cities.
- For her part, Ms. Liberty said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs should be in the position to motivate the rural populace to develop their areas and also build a bridge between government and the international community by preparing and implementing projects.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Lawmaker Frowns at High Taxes on Cellular Phone Companies

- Deputy House of Representatives Speaker Tokpah Mulbah said that the taxes levied on cellular phone companies operating in the country were too high and needed to be reduced. He added that the US\$5 million expected from the companies was unrealistic and could cause the companies to exploit subscribers.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Former National Port Managing Director Wants Harbors Privatized

- Briefing a Senate Standing Committee in Monrovia yesterday, the former National Ports Authority Managing Director Joe Gbala suggested the need to privatize some services at ports across the country to enhance revenue generation.
- He lamented that Liberia's ports were currently in shambles due to the civil war as such the cargo handling, warehouse operations and other services should be privatized.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Elections Commission Delegation Visits South Africa

- A National Elections Commission delegation including its Co-Chairman Elizabeth Nelson and James Dogbey, head of the Information Technology will today leave the Liberia for South Africa as part of the Commission's staff capacity building program funded by UNMIL, NEC press statement said.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Special Court Supplement

New Staff Members – 7 July to 24 July



Vincent Wagona (Trial Attorney, Prosecution) joined the Special Court on 7 July. He has 15 years experience working at the Directorate of Public Prosecution in his native Uganda.

Prior to his appointment with the Court, his first international experience, Vincent served as senior counsel in the unit responsible for

fraud and corruption in Kampala.

He has a bachelor of Law degree plus a post graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. He has also visited Zimbabwe, United States, U.K. and Japan as part of his study tours.

Vincent said he sees his new appointment as a challenge and an opportunity.

He likes spending time with family and friends.

Peter McLaren (Senior Criminal Investigator OTP) (no photo available) joined the Court on July 9. He brought with him 29 years experience as an Investigator with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, specialising in robbery, homicide and narcotics investigations.

Prior to his current appointment, Peter previously worked at the Court in 2005 on secondment in the Witness Management Unit. He later went home and retired from the Mounties as a Staff Sergeant.

"I enjoyed investigating and working with the professionals at OTP", he said.

The former Staff Sergeant said the only thing he misses is watching hockey.



Manfred Chinamasa (Special Assistant to the Registrar) joined the Court on 24 July.

After receiving his Masters degree in Human Rights from the University of Pretoria in 2001, Manfred served as intern in Trial Chamber I of the ICTR for nine months.

Before his coming to the Special Court, he worked as legal counsel in the Office of the Ombudsman in his native Zimbabwe, where he is credited with contributing to the draft communication on African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

He likes reading, both legal and non-legal literature.

Special Court Supplement

ICRC Moot Court at the Courthouse on Tuesday, in pictures





