

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



Children from the Samaria Primary School visited the Court on Wednesday.

**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**

Friday, 9 June 2006

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

Norman's Rumour Denied / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
300 Nigerian Soldiers were Arrested at Aberdeen / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Jonny Paul, Tamba Brima Escape Death / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 5
Norman Weeps in Jail / <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 6

### International News

Taylor May be Deported to Sweden if Convicted — Sirleaf / <i>Vanguard (Nigeria)</i>	Page 7
Nigeria Replies Kadhafi over Liberia's Charles Taylor / <i>Pan African News Agency</i>	Page 8
Nigeria: Handing over Taylor Was not betrayal / <i>SomaliNet</i>	Page 9
8-Year Sentence for Businessman Who Smuggled Arms to Liberia / <i>New York Times</i>	Pages 10-11
Sierra Leone's forgotten 'Bush Wives' / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 12-13
Warlord's Chief Gun Runner Jailed / <i>The Independent</i>	Page 14
Green Advocate Pleased With Gus' Prosecution, Says ... / <i>The Analyst (Monrovia)</i>	Pages 15-16
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 17-19

Awoko  
Friday, 9 June 2006

# Norman's rumour denied

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has refuted a rumour in Freetown that Chief Sam Hinga Norman, one of the indictees and detainees at the Court's detention facilities, is either

very ill or even dead.

"Chief Norman has no condition which is life threatening. He continues to attend trial and was in court yesterday", said Peter Anderson of the Court's Public Affairs Section.

He added that, "I appreciate the fact that no newspaper has reported this rumour, and I further appreciate the many calls from journalists checking the facts. I am always available to comment on any Special Court matter."

Note: This statement was sent to the press early in the week

Awoko

Friday, 9 June 2006

## 300 Nigerian soldiers were arrested at Aberdeen

The defence witness in the trial of the three Armed Force Revolutionary Council (AFRC) Special Court indictees, Tamba Brima, who is the first accused, has told the court that a total of 300 Nigerian soldiers were captured by members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) during a fight at Aberdeen.

The witness, giving evidence at the Trial Chamber II, stated that during the reign of the AFRC there were frequent attacks by the Nigerian invasion force and that one of such fighting was at Aberdeen, west of the capital Freetown.

During the fight, the witness stressed, civilians were demonstrating against military intervention

were killed by the Nigerian soldiers and that the SLAs were able to arrest 300 soldiers and took them to the Sierra Leone Signal Squadron (SSS).

Mr. Brima said later there were negotiations between the Nigerian Army and the SLAs for the release of the Nigerian soldiers.

The witness earlier said that while he was in Freetown, negotiation was going on between the Nigerian forces stationed at Jui and members of the AFRC.

During this time, the Nigerian "Alpha" jet was also bombing certain areas such as the Army Headquarters (AHQ), Kissy, Benguema Barracks, Juba Barracks and some areas.

Led in evidence by Kojo Graham of the defence team, the witness stated that after

they had been informed about the bombing of AHQ, he went there and saw that many soldiers were killed among them was one Kamara and that Major S. S. Samura sustained severe injuries.

Offices of the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff and offices of other senior officers at the AHQ were destroyed.

Narrating further, the indictee said in February 1998 he was in Kono to cure himself traditionally when he heard that the Nigerian invasion forces had overthrown the ARFC government. And upon hearing this he decided not to get himself involved in the fighting. So he decided to escape to a neighbouring country but was unsuccessful as he was arrested.

Concord Times  
Friday, 9 June 2006

## Johnny Paul, Tamba Brima escape death

*Story: Tanu Jalloh*

Led in evidence by lead defence council, indicted AFRC's (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council) first accused, Tamba Brima in his defence narrated, at Special Court's Trial Chamber 2 how he and other AFRC personnel narrowly escaped death in the hands of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Kailahun.

"I was arrested together with Major Johnny Paul Koroma

(JPK), Capt. Kaloga Kamara, Lt. Jeff Kallon, Lt. Paul Lebbie, Capt. Hindolo Trye, Capt. BT Massaquoi, Capt. MY Saccoh, Staff Sgt. Moses Moseray, Corp. Tamba Abu, Corp. Momoh Thorley. Sam Bockarie had ordered that they take us to the nearby stream to execute us," he explained. Brima said also present in Kailahun then were RUF's Issa Sesay, Mike Lamin, Gibril Massaquoi, Denis Mingo, Morris Kallon, Augustine Gbao, and others.

Exclusive  
Friday, 9 June 2006

# Norman Weeps in

By Foday Fofana

For over seventy two hours now, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was rumoured to have died in his cell at the

UN Special Court. Mr. Norman's lawyer, in a tête-à-tête with The Exclusive, has however put the rumours to rest when he denied that denied that Mr. Norman is dead, although family sources say

Chief Norman is as good as dead.

"His health condition is deteriorating by the hour; he hardly eats...He feels so much betrayed and humiliated by this govern-

ment he fought so hard and selflessly to reinstate; to the point that he prefers death as a

man of honour...He can no longer endure the injustice and disappointment he is now hopelessly grappling with," a family member told The Exclusive yesterday.

#### NORMAN BETRAYED

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, we recall, was in tears when he was arrested by police and whisked off to the Special Court detention centre in handcuffs...He couldn't believe his eyes.

In a special interview with Chief Norman shortly after his arrest, he told The Exclusive

# Jail

that: "Kabbah has not only fringed on my basic human rights; he has disappointed me; he has in-

*Contd. page 2*

# Norman Weeps in Jail

*From front page*

rights; after all I did to free this nation from the shackles of marauding rebels...The kamajors even wanted to march down on Freetown to get me released but I halted them...And when they wanted to go back to the bush I stopped them."

## Vanguard (Nigeria)

Friday, 9 June 2006

### **Taylor may be deported to Sweden if convicted— Sirleaf**

By Funmi Komolafe,

GENEVA— Former Liberian warlord, Mr. Charles Taylor, may be deported to Sweden if convicted by the United Nations War Crime Tribunal.

Liberian president, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf confirmed this during a press briefing in Geneva. The Liberian president who reluctantly answered questions on Charles Taylor's trial said, Sweden had indicated her willingness to have him in their country.

President Johnson Sirleaf however made it clear that “ Mr. Taylor was not indicted in Liberia . He was indicted in a United Nations Court in Sierra Leone, so its up to the UN”.

Commenting on the relationship of her government and the Bretton Wood Institutions, the Liberian President said she would not allow the IMF to dominate her economic policies. She said, “ Domination comes when a government does not have its own originally articulated economic policies”.

Liberia she emphasized has her own home-grown economic policies which is being supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

On Liberia's debt crisis, she said her government is seriously working on debt cancellation because, in her words, “ the ratio of the debt is not sustainable”.

Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said, “We hope to get unilateral, bilateral debt cancellation”.

On the implementation of her Emergency Economic Programme, she said that she is hopeful that the International Labour Organisation would give her country, technical assistance but that Liberia would also “mobilize resources from other areas to complement the ILO's financial support”.

The Liberian President supported the call for a United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Darfur, Sudan saying “ Africa has taken a position to support African peace-keeping force in Darfur”.

She however said the UN peace-keeping Force would have to work with the African nations peace-keeping force .

Earlier, she had met with African representatives of governments, workers and employers, where she told them of the efforts at rebuilding Liberia.

She said the focus of her government includes, “Promoting peace and security, good governance, changing Liberia's international image, etc. On the challenges which include restructuring of institutions, building partnership with Liberia's neighbours unemployment etc. she sought the cooperation of sister African nations.

Apparently trying to avoid the Niger-Delta crisis in Nigeria, she said although, investors have been invited to mine resources in Liberia, especially diamond, the policy of her government is to ensure that “ resources from the forest go back to support the community from where the resource is taken”.

She said her government is committed to tackling corruption at all levels.

## Pan African News Agency

Thursday, 8 June 2006

<http://news.africastv.com/africastv/article.php?news>

### **Nigeria replies Kadhafi over Liberia's Charles Taylor**

Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya, Mohammed Ibrahim, has defended his country's decision to repatriate former Liberian President Charles Taylor to Liberia for war crimes trial, following the criticism of the action by Libyan leader Moammar Kadhafi.

Reacting to a statement credited to Kadhafi that Nigeria betrayed the African continent by handing over Taylor to be tried for war crimes by the UN-backed special tribunal in Sierra Leone, Ibrahim said Nigeria acted in strict compliance with the request of the Liberian President.

"Let me say without any air of ambiguity that what the Nigerian government did concerning Charles Taylor was in strict compliance with the request of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the new President of Liberia," the local media Thursday quoted Ambassador Ibrahim as saying to a group of Nigerian journalists in Tripoli, Libya.

"Indeed, the agreement reached when Taylor was being taken to Nigeria was that if an elected government of Liberia should request for him, he should be promptly released to them. So, I wonder why the Libyan President is making such wild accusations," Ibrahim added.

The Ambassador said President Olusegun Obasanjo should be "emulated and appreciated by every black person in the world" for having the courage to do that which is right, "no matter who is involved and irrespective of the circumstances". - pana



## SomaliNet

Thursday, 8 June 2006

### **Nigeria: Handing over Taylor was not betrayal**

Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya, Mohammed Ibrahim, has answered the query of Libya's president, Col. Muammar Gadhafi that handing over ex Liberia's president by Nigeria's leader was not betrayal on Nigeria's part. "Let me say without any air of ambiguity that what the Nigerian government did concerning Charles Taylor was in strict compliance with the request of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the new President of Liberia," Ibrahim told journalists in Libya.

Col. Muammar Ghadafi recently commented that Nigeria's act was not in line with African solidarity. Nigeria's president, Olusengun Obasanjo handed over Taylor for trial in the UN war crimes tribunal. "Indeed, the agreement reached when Taylor was being taken to Nigeria was that if an elected government of Liberia should request for him, he should be promptly released to them. So, I wonder why the Libyan President is making such wild accusations," Ibrahim said in Nigeria's defence.

He called upon the world to appreciate what Nigeria's president did because it was an act of courage.

## New York Times

Thursday, 8 June 2006

### **8-Year Sentence for Businessman Who Smuggled Arms to Liberia**

By MARLISE SIMONS

A Dutch businessman was sentenced Wednesday to eight years in prison for breaking a United Nations arms embargo and smuggling weapons for the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, during the country's civil war.

Guus Kouwenhoven, 63, who was a business partner of Mr. Taylor's, sold Liberian timber on the world market and took back weapons and ammunition aboard his companies' ships from 2001 to 2003, judges at the district court in The Hague said.

The court said Mr. Kouwenhoven had knowingly broken international law and helped to destabilize the region. Mr. Taylor, who is facing trial on war crimes charges, organized and financed a decade of conflicts across West Africa that left more than 300,000 people dead. A decision has not been made on the trial's location.

The prosecution of Mr. Kouwenhoven for his wartime role in Africa was one of the first cases of its kind, lawyers said. Some called it a warning for others.

"I applaud this because financiers and companies working in the shadows of African wars are now on notice that they may be held accountable," said David Crane, the former chief prosecutor of the United Nations-backed tribunal dealing with war crimes in Sierra Leone, where Mr. Taylor is being held.

In its verdict, the Dutch court acquitted Mr. Kouwenhoven on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Prosecutors had asked for a 20-year prison sentence and a fine of about \$570,000 because, they argued, Mr. Kouwenhoven had ordered workers from his two timber companies to fight in militias run by Mr. Taylor. He provided these fighters with weapons and vehicles and therefore shared in the guilt of the atrocities they committed against civilians, the prosecution said.

The judges said not enough evidence had been provided to prove that Mr. Kouwenhoven had known about, and could be linked to, atrocities by his companies' militias. The prosecution is planning to appeal.

Mr. Crane, who wrote the indictment against Mr. Taylor, said his office had assisted the Dutch prosecutors. He contended that there was "clear evidence" of close association between Mr. Taylor and Mr. Kouwenhoven, involving financing and the supply of weapons and fighters.

In their ruling on Wednesday, the judges said Mr. Kouwenhoven's assistance to Mr. Taylor was "crucial," and suggested his motivations were not political, but rather "guided purely by financial interests."

Prosecutors said Mr. Kouwenhoven practiced his timber-for-weapons trade by getting large concessions of valuable Liberian hardwood, selling it on the international market and using his companies' ships to bring back machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and other war supplies, delivering them secretly at night to a Liberian port.

Mr. Kouwenhoven is the second Dutch businessman to be convicted recently in The Netherlands for war profiteering. In December, a Dutch court sentenced Frans van Anraat to 15 years in prison for selling chemicals to Saddam Hussein.

BBC Online  
Friday, 9 June 2006

## Sierra Leone's forgotten 'bush wives'

By Penny Boreham  
BBC African Perspective

**Everyone you meet in Sierra Leone has a story to tell you about how the war affected them, or their family, and of the struggle to make a living and gain any quality of life in the peace.**

But the enormity of the incidence of sexual abuse that occurred during the war is shocking.

Human Rights Watch has estimated that 64,000 women and girls were subjected to sexual abuse, mostly by the rebels but also by members of the armed forces.

The true figure is probably much higher, considering most rapes went unreported.

However, after the war, girls did not benefit from the demobilisation process or DDR as it was known, whereas the young male combatants did.

This was largely because combatants were asked to hand over guns in order to get access to facilities and programmes - this excluded girls as, even though some had carried arms, most had served as cooks, porters and "bush wives".

### Despair

Music blares out on to the street from the Flamingo Club Disco in Makeni, Sierra Leone's largest northern town and the former headquarters of the rebel forces during the war.

Inside, some young girls sit rather forlornly on chairs by the dance floor waiting to be approached, while others gyrate to the music, either together or with the men who frequent the club.

These are the lengths to which many young girls have to go to survive.

They can see no other way but prostitution.

"There is nobody to take care of me and my baby," one of them said.

"So I come out here and talk to men, whatever little they give me I use to feed my baby boy. The rebels amputated my father's hands and later killed him. My mother died out of despair."

### Rehabilitation

Christiana Thorpe heads Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE). Her organisation runs a rehabilitation programme for war affected and sexually assaulted girls.



Girls have not received as much post-war help as boys

“  
”  
Christiana Thorpe  
FAWE

"I would say that 99% of the girls who were affected by the war were not catered for.

"The boys got training, through the demobilisation process, money - they got everything and the girls were left out."

During the war, Sarah was "married" to a rebel husband in the bush.

Since the conflict ended in 2002, the main challenge facing girls like Sarah has been dealing with the stigma attached to them.

Even after the horrors of the war they've had to face the judgement of the community and live as social outcasts.

Worst of all, many found themselves rejected and driven out by their own parents.

Sarah became pregnant during the war. The father was a boy who was himself captured by the rebels and forced to fight with them.

After the war she attempted to rejoin her family but was driven out by her uncle when he realised she was pregnant.

She said she was filled with shame about her situation but has now been helped by a project called Hanci.

"I feel much better now, because when I was with the boy I saw many injured and even dead people," she says.

"I saw people die of hunger and so much suffering. I saw it all, I'm so much happier now. I've been able to go back to school



Projects such as Hanci are trying to fill the gap

## Independent

Friday, 9 June 2006

### **Warlord's chief gun runner jailed**

THE HAGUE - A one-time used car salesman who became the right-hand man of Liberia's former president Charles Taylor has been jailed for eight years for breaking a UN arms embargo.

A Dutch court found that Guus Kouwenhoven, 64, sold weapons to Taylor in return for rights to the small West African country's tropical timber.

Kouwenhoven used his logging firm, Oriental Timber Company, to smuggle weapons into Liberia which were used by militias loyal to Taylor to kill civilians, including children and babies.

But the court acquitted Kouwenhoven of war crimes charges, dismissing the prosecution's claims that because Kouwenhoven supplied the weapons he could be directly linked to the atrocities carried out with their use.

The court also found insufficient evidence to prove that Kouwenhoven had a 2500 strong militia at his disposal.

## The Analyst (Monrovia)

Thursday, 8 June 2006

### **Green Advocate Pleased With Gus' Prosecution, Says It's Ending The Culture Of Impunity**

Green Advocates has applauded the decision of the Dutch Government to arrest, prosecute and convict the long-time business associate of former president Taylor , Gus Kouwenhoven of breaking United Nations arms embargo on Liberia.

The arms Gus imported into Liberia were used to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity, a release issued by the Green Advocates has said.

"Gus Kouwenhoven, the President and owner of the Oriental Timber Corporation (OTC), was arrested on March 25, 2005 in Rotterdam and charged with violating the UN arms embargo and war crimes. On July 1, he was arraigned before Dutch Court for preliminary hearing into his case.

"On Monday May 23, Gus was arrested in Rotterdam and his various luxury enclaves in Paris were searched. He was charged with violating the United Nations arms embargo.

"It is public knowledge that the Dutch hangman's presence in Liberia spans through more than a decade with the links to several tyrannical regimes, beginning with the regime of Samuel Doe and other successive regimes intensifying with the Taylor's vicious political empire.

According to the President and Founder of Green Advocates, Attorney-at-Law Alfred L. Brownell, "Green Advocates celebrates the triumph of international law and local Domestic Dutch law over crude and brutal business enterprises. We frown on the unrepentant acts of conspiracy indulged by corporate entities located within Liberia in their vain quest for profits at the expense of the blood, sweat and tears of ordinary Liberians.

"In their misadventure, these corporations have destroyed our traditional and cultural reserves, trained and armed militias who brutalized villagers, polluted our rivers and streams, extinct our endangered species, desecrated traditional shrines and promoted forced prostitution." "Gus and his cohorts were consistently engaged in and supported several evil serfdoms in Liberia. They supported, financed and fuelled the war economy of Liberia and promoted the war machinery of Liberia's worse despots and tyrants.

"Several investigations and reports by Green Advocates and other local and international civil society organizations confirmed by the panel of experts on Liberia and the Government of Liberia Forest Concession Review Committee have documented the trail of Gus' misadventures in Liberia thus placing him on the notorious list of those banned from travelling out of Liberia.

"Gus was the chief of Liberia's Timber Mafias. His arrest, trial and subsequent conviction of breaking UN arms embargo demonstrates that the shield of corporate invincibility is no longer a refuge for those who conspire, connive and collaborate with brutal regimes under the guise of doing business. The writings are on the wall According to Attorney-at-Law Alfred Brownell

"International law has consistently validated the legitimacy and moral necessity of addressing corporate complicity and have determined that such actions amount to crimes against humanity when they tend to abuse and violate the rights of individuals, commit rape, torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatments.

"In the case of Gus, his use of corporate cover to support the conscription of child soldiers, indulge in arms trafficking, perpetuate sex slavery and the wholesale plunder of natural resources without regard to the environment and the livelihood of ordinary citizens is uncontested.

"We are saddened and disappointed that the Dutch Court found otherwise, especially where the evidence linked to war crimes was overwhelming. We optimistically await the outcome of the prosecution appeal to the lower court decision on the war crime decision.

"International laws have evolved addressing impunity and pursuing corporate vampires who seek pleasure and profits at the expense of the blood of weary villagers and helpless mothers. It extends to those who have decimated and criminalized our country. The arms of international law favor the justice that will compel them to answer for their actions. Today local domestic Dutch Law strengthened by International law has produced the first Liberian war crime convict."

"We rejoice today that our long campaign to end corporate conspiracy with dictatorial regimes in our country has commenced. We praise the efforts of the local Liberian civil society activists, progressive Liberian media institutions and individual Liberians and foreigners alike who volunteered information and evidence at risk to their lives and families and those who gallantly volunteered to travel to the Netherlands on a mission of justice to testify that the end of justice will be met. Fellow Liberians this is just the beginning.

"We specifically called on the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Government to implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions, particularly the resolution on Asset Freeze of former government officials and business partners of former President Taylor.

"We call on other countries and governments, particularly the United States of America to follow the example of the Netherlands and bring to book war criminals. For example the recent indictment of Charles Taylor Junior AKA "Chukie" on alleged pass port fraud is inadequate and need to be strengthened to include war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Chukie while he served as Commander of the feared Anti Terrorist Unit established by his father in Liberia.

"We also call on the United States Government to conduct an investigation of several of their citizens as well as the activities of their multinational corporations including the Firestone Rubber Plantation, Freedom Gold Corporations of famed televangelist Pat Robertson, Talal Eddine, Richard Chikali and others linked to former President Charles Taylor as well as the role these corporations and individuals played in financing the war machines of former the President that resulted in the death of more than 300,000 innocent Liberians.

"We call on the Russian and Ukrainian governments to take actions against Victor Bout and Leonid Minin, principal financiers and arms suppliers of former President Taylor respectively.

"The verdict today clearly indicates that there will be no hiding place, no refuge for all those who in their vain quest for power, privilege and wealth would immorally acquire same at the expense of the blood, sweat and tears of our citizens "We extend our appreciation to our international civil society partners whose consistent campaign aided with grassroots information from many local Liberian activists as well as ordinary citizens help capture the fugitive business czar.

"We continue to remind all and sundry that temporary flight is possible but justice will triumph in the long run. The dawn of day is finally here," the release issued by the Green Advocates said.



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

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 June 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

VOA 07 June 2006

**Liberia's President Calls for Debt Relief and Private Investment**

By Lisa Schlein, Geneva

Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is calling for debt relief and investment to help her shattered country recover from its lengthy civil war. The president says unemployment is one of the main challenges facing her country. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf held a news conference in Geneva, following a speech she gave at the International Labor Conference. She says she is working with international financial institutions to try to get relief from the country's huge foreign debt. Such relief, she says, would greatly ease Liberia's development process. "Our debt is huge: \$3.5 billion for a nation of a little more than three million people," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. "We hope ... we will be able to get the relief on bilateral side. We hope we will get unilateral bilateral debt cancellation."

**Friends of Charles Taylor raise funds for his defense in war crimes trial**

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH, 8 June 2006

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Friends and former associates of former Liberian President Charles Taylor said Thursday that they are raising money for Taylor's defense against charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. John Richardson, a former official in Taylor's administration and head of the fundraising group, said Taylor does not have the money to pay his team of lawyers from England, the United States, Ghana and Liberia.

**Liberian rights groups divided over Kouwenhoven verdict**

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, June 7, 2006 (AFP) - Human rights and justice groups in Liberia were Wednesday divided in their reactions to the sentence handed down to a Dutch businessman and close ally of former president Charles Taylor. Guus Kouwenhoven was given an eight-year prison term by a Dutch court for breaching UN sanctions against Liberia by supplying arms to Taylor's regime in exchange for timber in the so-called bloody-timber trade. The court, however, acquitted him of war crimes charges. "Eight years imprisonment for such a criminal is not fair for Liberians," said Jackson Spear, head of Liberia's Foundation for International Dignity (FIND). "This man has done so much wrong to Liberians that even a life imprisonment would not have been worthy," Spear told AFP.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Ivory Coast militia disarmament postponed**

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, June 7 (Reuters) - Disarmament of pro-government militia groups in Ivory Coast due to begin on Thursday has been postponed, an official said on Wednesday, in the latest setback to holding delayed presidential elections.

## **Local Media - Newspapers**

### **Taylor's Crony Guilty of Arms Trafficking**

*(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, New Vision, The Informer and The Monitor)*

- A Dutch court in The Hague on Wednesday convicted a Dutch arms trader and business confidante of former President Charles Taylor, Guus Kouwenhoven for violating a United Nations arms embargo on Liberia. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.
- Mr. Kouwenhoven was however acquitted of war crimes charges because the court was unable to prove that he was linked to the many atrocities which were committed during the civil war. Prosecutors had demanded a 20-year prison sentence and a fine of more US\$500,000.
- Global Witness and Environmental Lawyers in Liberia described the development as a precedent-setting verdict and a major victory in the campaign against the trade in conflict resources.

### **Cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Increase in UNMIL**

*(The News, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and New Vision)*

- Addressing a regular press briefing on Wednesday, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss reported that the Mission was aware of 62 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving its personnel.
- Mr. Doss said disciplinary action has been taken by UN Headquarters in six of the cases recorded in 2005. He said if the remaining cases are substantiated, disciplinary action would as well be taken.

### **Temporary Staff Besiege UNMIL Headquarters in Protest of Benefits**

*(The Inquirer, Daily Observer and The Analyst)*

- About 100 voluntary workers of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on Wednesday protested to demand the mission for their severance pay.
- The protesters told journalists that they have been working for the Mission since its inception in 2003 and should be compensated. UNMIL authorities denied the protesters' claims, saying that it was not part of the contract for UNMIL to pay severance benefits to volunteers.

### **U.S. and Swedish Investors Promised 1,000 Jobs**

*(Daily Observer, The Analyst and New Vision)*

- A team of U.S. and Swedish nationals, currently exploring investment possibilities in Liberia, declared their intention to participate in the reconstruction processes by investing in different aspects which would create up to 1,000 jobs for Liberians.

### **UNMIL Bangladeshi Contingent Trains Students in Nimba County**

*(The Informer)*

- UNMIL's Bangladeshi Contingent recently graduated 144 students which it trained in tailoring, mechanics and computer science in Nimba County.

### **Local Media – ELBS Radio**

#### **Government Says Removal of Tariff Opens up Cement Market**

- Acting Commerce Minister Pete Norman told journalists yesterday that the removal of the US\$2 tariff on a bag of cement opened the commodity to competitors, announcing that business people wishing to import cement could now do so. Mr. Norman recounted that the previous government introduced the tariff to protect CEMENCO, the only local producer of the commodity.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

#### **Criminal Court Judge Orders Arrest of Montserrado County Attorney**

- In a press interview yesterday, Criminal Court Judge Saykahjepo Wollo said that he ordered the arrest of Montserrado County Attorney Samuel Jacobs, State prosecutors and members of the defence council for failing to attend court hearings. Judge Wollo had threatened contempt proceeding against the Justice Ministry for the repeated failure of State prosecutors to go to court.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

#### **Police Report Crime Increases in Three Months**

- In its report on crimes in Liberia, the Liberian National Police said that criminal activities had risen by 15 percent over the past three months.
- Police Inspector-General Beatrice Munnah Sieh said that burglary topped the list while terrorist threats and robberies followed in the second and third places. However, she said that criminal activities in the country were within tolerable limits.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

#### **Bureau of Immigration Sets Up Task Force to Inspect Immigration Documents**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

#### **UNMIL Temporary Workers Protest for Severance Benefits**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

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#### **Dutch Court Convicts Dutch Arm Dealer**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

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

#### **Christian Group Donates Books to University of Liberia**

- The University of Liberia yesterday received a consignment of books worth US\$500,000 from the West African Gospel Mission and an alumnus of the University, Christopher Tokpah. The Mission's Administrator Daniel McGee said that the donation was a way of assisting the institution.