

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



SCSL footballer (in blue) in a challenge with a Cold Storage player during the recently organised Celtel cooperate league.

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:

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

Justice Jon Kamanda Sworn in as Appeals Judge at Special Court.../ *Awareness Times* Page 3

Women Access to Justice Training Behins / *New Vision* Page 4

Stay the Course in The Hague / *Standard Times* Page 5

International News

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

Accident Not Sabotage / *Liberian Observer* Page 9

Awareness Times

Thursday, 8 November 2007

Justice Jon Kamanda sworn in as Appeals Judge at Special Court in Sierra Leone

According to a Special Court press release issued to this medium, Justice Jon Kamanda, a Judge of the Sierra Leone Appeals Court, was sworn in yesterday, Wednesday November 7th 2007 as Justice of the Special Court's Appeals Chamber.



Oath being administered by the Registrar, Herman von Hebel

Justice Kamanda was appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone. Under the Statute of the Special Court, three of the five Appeals Chamber Judges are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and two are appointed by the Government.

Justice Kamanda will now replace Justice Geoffrey Robertson, QC, who resigned in August of this year.

The Solemn Declaration was administered by the Registrar of the Special Court, Herman von Hebel, in the presence of Special Court Judges, staff, invited guests and journalists. The Declaration was witnessed by Attorney General and Minister of Justice Serry Kemal, and by Victor de Angelo, the Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Justice Kamanda trained as a Barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law in London, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple. From 1976-80 he worked as State Prosecutor in the Government Law Office, rising to the rank of Senior State Counsel. In 1980 he entered private practice in criminal law.

He was elected to Parliament in 1982 and was appointed Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources. In 1985 he was made the country's Minister of Health.

From 1987-92 he served as Deputy Managing Director of the National Diamond Mining Company. Justice Kamanda has served as an Appeals Court Justice in the Sierra Leone judiciary since 2004 and is the Presiding Judge in criminal appeals. He is also a High Court Judge in the Civil Division.

Appeals are currently pending before the Court in the case of The Prosecutor vs. Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu (the AFRC case) and in the case of The Prosecutor vs. Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa (the CDF case).

Women Access to Justice Training Begins

By Mohamed Koroma

The Regional Campaign Coordinator of Amnesty International, North of Sierra Leone, Mr. Fredrick Lawson has organized a six day workshop on the theme Women's Access to Justice in the rural communities at Masiaka Town, in the Koya Chiefdom, of Port Loko District.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the campaign coordinator said the workshop focuses on Gender sensitivity, Gender violence and women access to Justice in the rural setting.

Lawson said with the help of Amnesty International's, Special Programme for Africa, they were educating women about their roles and responsibilities in their traditional settings, adding that the workshop will critically focus on the need to multivate the volunteers training programme (VIP) so as to be knowledgeable in basic human rights issues at the community level.

The workshop attracted teachers,

war wounded, women, traditional leaders and school going children.

According to Mr. Lawson said the reason behind bringing together these people was as a result of the need to strengthen human right activities in the district, noting that it would enhance their roles and responsibilities to live in a peaceful environment.

Mr. Anidu Bangura, a war victim who served as a participant of the training said, the workshop is very important as it will help community members to respect Human Rights and to educate people on how to live peacefully in their communities.

The war victim maintained that there is every need for community members to be empowered so as to adhere to the rule of law and to respect the rights of the people, so that the past human rights violations will not come to play again.

He urged participants to make meaningful contributions during the training.

Stay the Course in The Hague

BY PROJECT SYNDICATE

After eight years on the job, Carla del Ponte is about to step down as the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. Set up by the United Nations to prosecute those on all sides in the Balkan wars - Serbs, Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and, later, Albanian Kosovars - who committed atrocities, it is imperative that the UN appoint a new prosecutor prepared to carry on del Ponte's work.

The ICTY was the first international criminal tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals at the end of World War II. Despite a slow start, it has compiled an admirable record in bringing to justice and providing fundamentally fair trials for some 80 indictees, includ-

gations of the Hague and Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners and civilians in occupied territories. That record must not be wasted.

Many of the highest-level trials are just beginning or will soon commence, and a substantial number of appeals are pending, which raise as yet undecided issues of the law of war. While only four ICTY indictees remain at large, two fugitives - Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic - are among the most notorious suspects who must face justice before the ICTY's work can be considered complete.

As a former judge at the ICTY, I can attest to the indispensable role that prosecutors

whose meticulous preparation and thoughtful analyses have been critical to the court's work. Since leaving the ICTY, I have personally participated in annual joint training sessions for the appellate litigators of all the international criminal courts and know well that the caliber of the ICTY prosecutors' work remains high.

Yet a crisis looms. Del Ponte, whose term expires at the end of the year, has just returned from Belgrade, where she sought again to try to facilitate the arrest of Karadzic and Mladic. By all rights, her deputy, David Tolbert, an American lawyer with nine years of service at the Tribunal, should step effortlessly into her shoes. Tolbert's legal shrewdness, scholarly international law background, and smart management style are indisputable.

Tolbert has been especially successful in spearheading the Tribunal's self-correction process to remedy earlier shortcomings in the efficiency, length, and cost of trials. His appointment has been endorsed by del Ponte, other past prosecutors, and the top lieutenants and staff of the Prosecutor's office, who sent a letter of support to the UN Secretary-General. Even if Mladic or Karadzic are not turned over to the court, there are several top military and civilian leaders of the Srebrenica massacre whose cases are not yet finished, making the need for Tolbert paramount.

Alas, the UN's ways are not always easy to comprehend, and it is reportedly contemplating the appointment of an outside prosecutor with no prior experience at the ICTY. If that happens, the ICTY will lose its chief prosecutor and its deputy, and a large number of the staff will reportedly leave as well.

Those of us who have been playing a role in the birth and maturation of this grand experiment in international justice urge the UN to think hard before detouring from the proud tradition left by eminent Nuremberg prosecutors Robert Jackson and Telford Taylor, and by the first three ICTY prosecutors. The UN should stay the course with Tolbert as the ICTY's fourth and final prosecutor.

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ICTY prosecutors

ing generals, heads of state, and brutal prison camp commanders. The flagship for successful war crimes courts in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, East Timor, Cambodia, and the permanent International Criminal Court, the ICTY is now in its final phase, slated to close its doors in 2010.

These final years will be critical, not only for the ICTY's reputation and legacy but for international humanitarian law (the so-called "laws of war"). The ICTY has overseen the development of a phenomenal body of jurisprudence that brings life to the abstract precepts of international law. It has clarified the meaning and obli-

gations of the Hague and Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners and civilians in occupied territories. That record must not be wasted.

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The UN has given the ICTY three excellent prosecutors: Richard Goldstone from the South African Constitutional Court, Louise Arbour from the Canadian Supreme Court, and Del Ponte, a formidable prosecutor from Switzerland

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 November 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

AP 11/08/2007 06:40:21

U.S. deports Liberian man at center of interpreter case

ROCKVILLE, Md._Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy says a Liberian immigrant whose sexual abuse case was dismissed when he didn't get a speedy trial has now been deported. Twenty-three-year-old Mahamu Kanneh of Rockville was charged in 2004 with the rape of a 7-year-old girl. The trial was postponed several times because court officials could not find an interpreter fluent in his dialect. The charges were dismissed this summer when a judge ruled his right to a speedy trial had been violated. Deportation proceedings began soon after the dismissal was reported. Prosecutors filed an appeal to reinstate the rape charges, but McCarthy said they haven't decided whether to drop the appeal.

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone's new president reiterates adherence to "one-China" policy

LAGOS, Nov 7, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Sierra Leone's new President Ernest Bai Koroma reiterated Wednesday that his government unswervingly adheres to the "one-China" policy and supports China's great cause of national reunification. Koroma made the remarks when meeting with Chinese special envoy Zhai Jun at the presidential palace, the Chinese embassy in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone, said in a press release. Zhai, also Chinese assistant foreign minister, conveyed Chinese President Hu Jintao's congratulations on his election, saying that China-Sierra Leone relations have enjoyed a healthy and stable development since the two nations established diplomatic ties 36 years ago.

UPDATE 1-Ivorian rebels shoot in air to disperse protesters

BOUAKE, Nov 8 (Reuters) - Soldiers in Ivory Coast's northern rebel-held zone fired warning shots on Thursday to disperse demonstrators who attacked them with stones during a protest over electricity bills, a Reuters witness said. Several hundred protesters blocked roads, burned tires and smashed up one of the offices of the national power company in Bouake, the rebel headquarters and Ivory Coast's second city. A number of rebel soldiers were injured after being pelted with stones by protesters. One man said a fellow protester had been taken to hospital after being shot in the foot by rebel troops. The report could not be immediately verified.

Local Media – Newspaper

UNMIL Chief Expresses Concern over Police Absenteeism

(The News and Heritage)

- Addressing a regular press briefing in Monrovia Wednesday, the head of UNMIL Mr. Alan Doss said that absenteeism within the Liberia National Police (LNP) was weakening UNMIL's efforts to combat armed crime, especially at night. He was

responding to questions regarding the reported increase in armed robbery in Monrovia and surrounding communities, particularly between October and November of 2007.

- Mr. Doss said that UNMIL planned for more night-time patrols in coordination with the LNP, but that these were of little use if LNP officers were not present. He suggested that a strengthened security sector was necessary to combat crimes.
- According to *The News*, the UNMIL boss recognized that the LNP continues to suffer from transport and communications equipment shortfalls, but also pointed out that working conditions have greatly improved for police officers; they are now regular and better paid, well trained and supplied with appropriate uniforms.

UNMIL Resumes Flights Following Helicopter Crash

(The News)

- [sic:] The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has resumed helicopter flights after all flights were grounded following the crash of a UN chartered UT Air helicopter in northeastern Liberia, killing all three Russian crew members last Friday. UN Special Envoy Alan Doss also urged members of the Liberian media to exercise restraint when reporting on such a sensitive issue, in light of speculations that the helicopter was gunned down as it undertook a routine flight between Ganta and Loguatu around the Liberian-Ivorian border.

ECOWAS' Defense Chiefs Say Unemployment Threatens

(The Inquirer, The Analyst and New Democrat)

- Defense Chiefs from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) say they have assessed the issue of unemployment to be posing threat to the peace and security of the region.
- In a communiqué issued at the close of the 20th meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defense Staff held in Monrovia, the Security Chiefs said the large number of unemployed youths pose a degree of threat to peace and security in the sub-region and called for the situation to be addressed.
- The communiqué also call on the ECOWAS commission to take steps to build a logistics capacity for the ECOWAS standby force which will be ready by 2010. *The Inquirer* quotes the Defense Chiefs as also calling on the authorities in the sub-region to improve the security forces to enable them effectively respond to conflicts in the region.

World Bank Supervision Mission in Liberia

(The Informer, The News and Heritage)

- The visiting World Bank Supervision Mission to Liberia is expected to hold a one-day strategic workshop for superintendents and other local government authorities and staff of the Liberia Agency for Economic Empowerment. According to a release, the workshop is within the context of ongoing discussions between the World Bank and the Government of Liberia regarding the implementation of the Second Empowerment Project (CEP II). The workshop will strengthen LACE's strategic linkages to ongoing governance reform and local government strengthening.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Truth Commission will not Conceal Atrocities by anyone

- A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) release said that the Commission's Executive Secretary Nathaniel Quarbo assured the public that the TRC will not conceal any information on human rights violations and other abuses and will operate within the framework of its mandate requiring that the archives of the TRC shall remain in the public domain except that records or documents classified by the TRC as confidential shall remain classified for 20 years following the retirement of the Commission.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

Small Arms Commission Launches Survey to Catalogue Arms

- Speaking at the launch of a survey to identify the number of arms and weapons being proliferated in Liberia yesterday, the Chairman of the Commission Commany Wesseh noted that the exercise being supported with US\$60,000 by ECOWAS, would enable the Commission to scientifically estimate the exact numbers of arms in Liberia.
- Mr. Wesseh said that the survey was necessary to curtail speculations and exaggeration about the quantity and proliferation of arms in the country, adding that already, 8 persons have been dispatched to the leeward Counties to carry out recruitments of civil society representatives who would conduct the assessment which is to last for six months.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

Opposition Party Says President Sirleaf will Dance to America's Tone

- The Secretary-General of the opposition Progressive Democratic Party of Liberia (PRODEMP) said that the award given to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by US President George Bush is intended to make her dance to the tone of the American Government. The Party's Secretary-General Jacky Smith added that the President's international partners make her feel like an "angel" abroad while back home she is a "real devil" in that her ruling Unity Party practically fails to reduce the prices of basic commodities and provides job opportunities to Liberians

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

Elections Commission Qualifies Candidates for Gbarpolu By-Elections

- National Elections Commission Chairman James Fromayan announced that 11 candidates have been qualified to contest the upcoming Gbarpolu County Senatorial by-elections slated for December 4.
- Chairman Fromayan said that those qualified are Independent candidates George Taylor Boakai, Armah Jallah, Isaac N. Johnson. Karnley Wetso and Bartu Dolley while those from the political parties are Maleki Dukuley of the Congress for Democratic Change, Varney Konneh, National Patriotic Party, Theodor Momo, Unity Party, George Blama Kollie, Alliance for Peace and Democracy, William Seye, Liberia Action Party and Isaac Manneh of COTOL. Chairman Fromayan called on the contestants to encourage registered voters in the County to turn out for the poll.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

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. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Liberian Observer (Monrovia)

Thursday, 8 November 2007

Accident Not Sabotage

Authorities of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have ruled out any foul play in the MI-8 helicopter crash in Ganta, Nimba County on Friday, November 2, 2007 at 10:13am local time.

UNMIL head of mission, Ambassador Alan Doss, made the clarification in an apparent denial that the aircraft had been shot down by some unknown gunmen, as contained in a Russian News and Information Agency (NOVOSTI) release shortly after the helicopter crash over the weekend.

UNMIL said the news agency report was based on 'pure speculation and not factual'.

"Until the findings of the investigation are made known, it is too early to speculate on the causes of the crash. As soon as the results of the investigation are known, they will be made public," Amb. Doss asserted.

The UNMIL chief, who dispelled the notion that the aircraft might have been shot down in northern Liberia, also pointed out that a team of aviation experts are due in the country 'shortly' to investigate circumstances that resulted in the crash.

Addressing an array of journalists yesterday at UNMIL regular press briefing, Mr. Doss maintained that the helicopter might have suddenly developed a technical fault, which eventually resulted in the 'tragic accident'.

The UNMIL chief, who appeared disturbed at the press conference, categorically refuted claims by the Russians that the helicopter crash was a direct result of 'terrorist means or someone harboring surreptitious motives'.

Mr. Doss asserted that a team of aviation experts from the UNMIL Safety Unit and the International Aviation Authority including a senior management team of UTAir, the owners of the aircraft, are due in the country shortly to investigate the circumstances leading to the accident.

The Russian Interstate Aviation committee is expected to send representatives to Liberia to beef up the probe.

Meanwhile, the UN envoy has conveyed his deep sympathies and condolences to the relatives and friends of the three-crew members who died when their MI-8 cargo helicopter crashed.

The three Russians who died in the crash included the pilot in command, Vitali Drozdov, 42, co-pilot Sergey Koloso, 53, and the flight engineer, Nikolai Zhoriko, 58.

"I have received calls from the President, the Vice-President and other senior members of the Liberian Government expressing their deep shock and sadness over the lives lost," Mr. Doss said when he spoke with the senior staff of the UTAir at the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) headquarters in Monrovia.

"We all feel touched by this tragedy because we fly with you day in day out," the Special Representative of the Secretary-General told the four-man UTAir team. "I wish to express my personal sorrow and ask you to convey our condolences to the families of the crash victims and members of the UTAir Company." Meanwhile, Ambassador Doss has offered the support and assistance of the UN in all the arrangements being made so far for the repatriation of the three bodies to Russia.