PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, August 02, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday. If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact Mariama S. Yilla Ext 7217 / 7216
What to do about Hinga Norman?

The incarcerated former leader of the civil defence forces, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who was also the deputy defence minister in the present Sierra Leone People’s Party-led government at the time of his arrest, has, in the past couple of days, not only indicated his desire to contest the leadership of the party (SLPP) and subsequently the presidency, but also thrown the sponsor into the works by making an application in the Supreme Court for a permanent injunction towards the conduct of the forthcoming national delegate convention, scheduled for the 19th-20th August.

Whether he would be allowed to declare his intention for the party leadership or would be allowed by the court administration to leave the premises of the detention facility to promote that vision is not clear, but the former chief of the Kamajor, who fought on the side of the loyal government forces and ECOMOG troops in bringing the rebels to the peace table, is definitely determined to get his way.

There are indications that the court administration is not prepared to take unwise steps to pander to the desires of the chief and to the very backing of the court by allowing Chief Hinga Norman to leave the detention premises without having been declared not guilty or not guilty to the judges or doctors who treat him.

A legal expert revealed that the decision of the Court becomes inchoate to only do that which suits the detention facilities. Despite the fact that the Chief Norman was not held, the legal expert pointed out the date of such a declaratory statement.

The legal expert, following the statements of the Court, has now turned to the SLPP on August 7th with an application for a permanent injunction against any agitators or agitators of the SLPP.

The application is to prevent any agitators or agitators of the SLPP from believing that the Chief Norman is to be a party to the leadership of the party.

The legal expert, however, also pointed out the importance of the application in preventing the party from being divided and in maintaining the unity of the party.

"Chief Hinga Norman is not a Saint, but he certainly has a right to everything that Sierra Leoneans are entitled to, and considering the role he played in securing the integrity of the nation, lives and properties during the war, he could easily be said to be an honorable citizen."
Nigeria sending Charles Taylor to Liberia after October elections

By Joe De Capua (VOA-Washington)

Nigeria's Foreign Minister says Nigeria will not turn over exiled Liberian President Charles Taylor to a third country, but would consider sending him back to Liberia.

Speaking in New York Wednesday, Ouyemi Adesina said his country had no intention of turning over Mr. Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone. He's been indicted by the court for crimes against humanity relating to Sierra Leone's Civil War.

Alison Cooper is a spokesperson for the UN-backed Sierra Leone Special Court. From Freetown, she spoke in English in Africa. Joe De Capua asked the Nigerian Position on Charles Taylor, who is currently living in exile in Colubam, Nigeria. She says, "This is not a new position for the government of Nigeria. They have said this before...The reaction to that at the Special Court is we really believe that it is time for justice to take its course, rather than having different positions regardless of where they are, whether they're Nigerian or Liberian, stating what the course of action should be for a lawfully indicted international war criminal."

Ms. Cooper believes there is growing international pressure on Nigeria to turn over Mr. Taylor. She says, "Certainly I believe that events of this year show that Nigeria is coming under increasing international pressure to hand Charles Taylor over. There was a unanimous resolution passed by the European Parliament earlier this year that was followed by resolutions through the US Congress in May. There's been very, very serious and very, very loud calls towards Nigeria to consider handing him over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone."

She says if, indeed, Charles Taylor is handed over to the Liberians, it won't be below the democratic elections later this year.
International Clips on West Africa

01/08/2005 13:44:17

Ivory Coast rebels say they won’t immediately disarm as deadline passes

By PAULINE BAX

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Northern-based rebels refused Monday to immediately lay down their weapons, saying Ivory Coast government-allied militia are still armed as the latest in a series of disarmament deadlines passed.

Rebel Spokesman Antoine Beugre said rebels would not disarm because laws introduced by Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo last month were improper and government-allied fighters remain armed.

Under a peace deal brokered by South African President Thabo Mbeki, rebel fighters were to begin gathering Sunday at cantonment sites before laying down their guns at a later date.

Local Media – Newspapers

Nigeria Rebuffs Regional Leaders over Taylor’s Asylum Status

(New Democrat)

- Quoting Radio France International, New Democrat reports that Nigeria has snubbed Mano River Union leaders over a recent request to review the asylum granted to former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

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 and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 July 2005

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