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 of:

Friday, 13 January 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Betrayal!

Norman and Issa complain Gov’t

"... it is beyond my control"

-Kabbah says

BY EDWARD MARIAT

Former Internal Affairs Minister and Coordinator of the government’s Civil Defense Forces (CDF), Chief Sam Hing Norman and Issa Sesay, former leader of the Revolutionary United Front have both complained strongly against their treatment by the government of Sierra Leone and the management of the Special Court for Sierra Leone detention facility, which they maintain is not only gross political opportunism on the part of the government of the day but also a total betrayal in the highest degree of

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Norman and Issa complain Gov't

They said they were completely disappointed by the UN and government for their plight, as they continue to be treated unfairly, considering in particular that they did all in their power to ensure that peace was restored to the country.

They also continue to question the legality of the Special Court especially with regards to its overwhelming powers and domination of the country's laws and constitution.

They appealed to the media to be more factual about the realities that we are all living with, noting that the media has always been presenting one-sided stories of the Special Court, with very little regard for the rights of the incarcerated or the national laws.

Chief Norman said he will continue to pursue legal means to secure his freedom, but hinted that their continued incarceration by the Special Court definitely does not augur well for sustainable peace in the country.

It is in this regard that they are appealing to the media practitioners to do all in their power to ensure that justice is seen to prevail in their case, noting that the media has a lot to do with regards to the sustenance of peace and security in the country.

According to reports, the complaints of the incarcerated former fighters was put to the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, but he maintained that the matter of the Special Court is beyond his control and can do absolutely nothing for them.
Norman's Threat Causes Anger

The Inspector General of Police, Brima Jalsa Kamara assured the New Citizen yesterday that the mischievous remarks made by Chief Sam Hinga Norman to the President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, I. B. Kargbo, whom he stated that he would cause the abduction of government ministers, could only be seen as a statement aimed at creating unnecessary panic.

Chief Hinga Norman had vowed last Friday that he was prepared to go to any length to embarrass government ministers as his own way of expressing his unhappiness about his incarceration.

The meeting between Chief Hinga Norman and I. B. Kargbo was supposed to create an avenue that would make the public understand the thinking of Sam Hinga Norman and when he said that he was mobilizing people to abduct government ministers, this information was passed on to members of

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FROM PAGE 1

Norman’s Threat

the government, but yesterday. Sam Hinga Norman’s threat was severely criticized by a large number of Sierra Leoneans who complained that Hinga Norman’s statement amounted to an attempt to undermine the peace process and that in future, the Special Court should not allow Chief Hinga Norman to make such defamatory statements.

Also yesterday, news circulated in Freetown that even though Chief Sam Hinga Norman continues to make statements of threat to state security, he himself has agreed to testify as a defense witness before the same Special Court which he claims to be an illegal entity.

The popularity of Sam Hinga Norman has dwindled during the past several days as his attempt to threaten members of the public, including government ministers, has largely been seen as an act of blackmail.

The Inspector General of Police has assured members of the public that all government ministers and other citizens are safe and that the threats of Sam Hinga Norman should not be allowed to interfere with the peace and concord already established by the state.

Bruma Acha Kamara continued, “The man wants propaganda and the police will not sit idly and allow him to threaten other citizens. The whole idea of the Special Court is a decision which has international implications and in any case, if Hinga Norman feels so strongly about the existence of the Special Court, why didn’t he say so when he was a Cabinet Minister when in most probability, the matter of the Special Court was discussed. His effort to create mischief is unacceptable and such an act should be condemned.”

The Managing Editor of the New Citizen and President of SLAJ, I. B. Kargbo who had granted an interview to Radio UN on Thursday morning still holds the view that information that is so vital to state security should not be concealed and should be made public to forewarn members of the public of any possible dangerous consequences and to also alert members of the security forces.
The Special Court detention facilities are what one would call a habitable place but Chief Sam Hinga Norman, one of the detained indicted said to visitors, "however beautiful this place may look, it is still a prison and this is not the place a gentleman should welcome a friend in Meeting Chief Hinga Norman in his place of confinement is a very special experience not only because Sam Hinga Norman, the one-time Kamajor warlord, is now a clearly frustrated man, perhaps a very bitter man, but also because he has suddenly forgotten the pledge he made when he headed the fighting militias during which period he assured the people of Sierra Leone that he was working for the restoration of peace and democracy.

Hinga Norman at the Special Court now refuses to concede to the fact that Sierra Leone has attained peace as he continues to suggest that his incarceration and the incarceration of others at the Special Court cannot be seen as acts of promoting peace, as it all by himself, constitutes peace or war in Sierra Leone.

This argument of his clearly suggests that Sam Hinga Norman is self-centered and has no respect for the peace and happiness of others. That he can actually invite a senior journalist to inform him in a most blood-curdling tone that he was prepared to create a state of fear by causing the arrest of government ministers is also a deliberate attempt to undermine the peace process. Such information is so vital in the promotion of the peace process that it cannot be hidden under the bushel, for lessons have been learnt in Sierra Leone when the state suffered immensely only because some people decided to ignore vital security information.

Hinga Norman's anger about being incarcerated in the Special Court is beginning to affect the happiness of other people. Especially since he now openly suggests that he can utilize the services of his former fighters to create a state of mayhem in a country which the whole world had invested huge chunks of funds, manpower and the most time consuming period of negotiations when he was Deputy Minister of Defense and head of the militias, the Kamajors. Chief Hinga Norman should have realized that even in fighting for a just cause, there are certain limitations which even the most patriotic citizen cannot exceed. But Chief Hinga Norman misunderstood his determination to restore the democratic process as an excuse to unleash hardship for others and whether or not the allegations against him are true or not are allegations that would be determined by the Special Court for which he now stands trial for very serious offenses.

are including violating the rights of other citizens. Why Chief Hinga Norman chose the 14th of January as the day when his campaign to arrest ministers will commence is not clear, but what is clear is that Chief Hinga Norman's arguments are illogical and what also came out of the discussion between himself and I. B. Kargbo was that he was really not convinced about what he was saying.

He also fully knew that his capacity to bring back peace to this land remained a long time ago which explains why the Head of the Police Force attributed his threat of arresting government officials as a statement of mischief.

Under normal circumstances, one would have sympathized with Chief Hinga Norman and indeed, well before this time, he had attracted a lot of sympathy, but by making inflammatory statements that seem to suggest that he has no regard for law and order is gradually making him to lose sympathy as we have witnessed.

Such information is so vital in the promotion of the peace process that it cannot be hidden under the bushel, for lessons have been learnt in Sierra Leone when the state suffered immensely only because some people decided to ignore vital security information during the past week.

The points that have been emphasized recently have a lot to do with the fact that whether the Special Court is a legal or an illegal entity. Chief Hinga Norman was part of a cabinet that created it, and very critical minds can easily ask whether in fact he criticized the setting up of the Special Court when he was a member of government.

There are known Sierra Leoneans who are on record for criticizing the formation of the Special Court, especially those Sierra Leoneans who preferred the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to a Special Court but of course, Sam Hinga Norman was not one such person.

Today, he argues that the Lome Peace Accord had been violated as the Lome Peace Accord itself had granted citizens who took part in the war blanket amnesty but of course, when Sierra Leoneans were arrested and detained, even
after the Peace Agreement for purely security reasons, did Chief Hinga Norman raise a finger to protest on behalf of such incarcerated citizens?

If Chief Hinga Norman did not create the impression that he had an agenda of his own when he led the CDF, he could not have been trapped in the present political mess in which he has now found himself.

He still would have led the Kamajors and other Sierra Leoneans to topple the AFRC and restore the democratic process without creating the impression that he was up to something else.

When earlier, well before the Special Court investigators arrived in Sierra Leone, he was encouraged to disengage himself from Kamajor activities to be appointed Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Niger— that would have been a great occasion for him to get out of the spider web confusion of a war in which too many people died.

But he defiantly refused to proceed to Abidjan for he preferred to be the leader of the Kamajors.

If he had actually accepted the job of High Commissioner well before the arrival of the Special Court investigators, could that not have saved him the problem for which he now suffers?

But the important point is that which has to do with the promotion of the rule of law and the great need to respect the whole concept of human rights.

Having stated all the above, it should not be construed that this is not an attempt to interfere with Hinga Norman's efforts of extricating himself from the Special Court indeed, a good number of citizens sincerely believe that the Special Court is such a transparent institution that can hand down justice without fear or favour.

It is just possible that a few months from now, if Hinga Norman’s lawyers argue seriously, this can lead to his freedom so that he can join the rest of Sierra Leoneans to help in the development of the country.

What should not be seen to be the case is any suggestion from Hinga Norman that he has lost his temper to the extent that he can wish a reversal of all the gains achieved in the very rigorous peace process in which he was a very conspicuous part at some point.

No minister of government will be abducted and the peace process will be sustained, notwithstanding any mischievous statement that has the potential to threaten the goodwill of an international community that has invested so much in restoring peace in this once tattered country.
Norman Joins APC

Norman Joins APC

enemies in politics, while emphasizing the point that, the SLPP to which
Chief Norman originally belonged, had failed him woefully by not just sacrificing
him on the altar of political aggrandizement but also actually displayed the worst ingratitude to a man who contributed immensely to bailing
the SLPP from the penury of life in exile.

Asked when the Chief will be holding the said press conference to inform
the world about his wish to rally support for Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma, our
source who happens to be a close confidant of Chief Sam Hinga Norman
decided to comment, saying it’s around the corner.

When the Exclusive’s Jarrah Kawsusu-Konte contacted the APC Secretariat,
it was revealed that, although there is ongoing understanding between
Chief Norman and the party with regards the Special Court and its ramifications
for lasting peace in Sierra Leone, it was maintained that the Secretariat
remains unaware of any such move by the Special Court indirecte to join
ranks with the APC.

Nonetheless, the APC National Publicity Secretary, Mr. William Juanos Smith
has opined that the possibility of the Norman camp preferring the APC,
especially under the magnanimous leadership of Ernest Koroma should not
be ruled out.

Mr. William Smith who also took time to comment on a front page story
carried by this press yesterday where an aide to the SLPP Secretary
General was quoted saying that “The APC are merely busy bodying... Ernest and
Victor Foh are all looking for cheap popularity... short of some new political ideas
and strategies, the APC are going all out to woo SLPP antagonists like
Charles Margai and Hinga Norman with the belief that they would return to
power in 2007.” described the above statement as puerile and irresponsible,
accusing that only political upstarts will utter such statement. “The issue of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and all its alleged wrongdoers are
Sierra Leoneans and, we do not view the issue along partisan lines.
Hinga Norman, Issa Sesay, Tamba Brima etc. are just like any other Sierra
Leonean, but are unfortunately left at the mercy of an institution or court that
claims to be above the laws of Sierra Leone,” says Mr. W.J. Smith.

He further revealed that for an SLPP agent or official to regard the APC’s
recent magnanimity towards Chief Hinga Norman as “busying bodying” is not
only unpatriotic, insensitve and reckless, but an absolute disregard for the
plight of a man who has selflessly risked his image and life to restore the
very SLPP to power.

“Such misguided statements about the ongoing so-called “busying bodying” of
the APC only reduces the gravity and seriousness of Chief Norman’s plight
to an SLPP affair, which no one outside the corridors of Torghoi politics
cannot comment on.” Mr. Smith further stated.

Concluding, the APC Publicity Secretary maintained that, in politics there
are neither permanent friends nor enemies, stating that the APC will remain
relentless in pursuing the just cause of every Sierra Leone irrespective of
political, tribal or regional affiliations or considerations and, if Chief Norman
prefers Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma to the SLPP’s Solomon Berewa, we wel-
come the news with open hands.
143 witnesses for CDF defence team

The defence team for the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) at the Special Court has lined up a total of 143 witnesses for its case, which will commence next Tuesday with the first accused, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, as the first witness.

At their pre-defence conference held at the Trial Chamber presided by Justice Bankole Thomson, the defence team confirmed that indeed 104 witnesses would be testifying for the defence team.

The lawyer for the first accused, Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbi, confirmed that the number of witnesses lined up for his client stood at 77. He went on that he would want the motion, which had been filed by the accused for the President Kabbah to be subpoenaed in order for him to testify before the court.

The defence lawyer for the second indictee, Moinina Fofanah, Mr. Arrow Bockarie said they had lined up 27 core witnesses for which they were not intending to seek for protective measures. He however stated that there should be reservation for 18 backup witnesses.

Talking about the witnesses for the third indictee, Aliju Kondewa, one of the defence counsels, Charles Margai said they had listed a total of 39 witnesses.

In his statement, Justice Bankole Thomson said the number of witnesses lined up for the defence had doubled that of the prosecution. He maintained that the Chamber had the authority to reduce the number of witnesses but that what the Bench wanted was a clear trial.
Charles Margai battles in High Court

By Mohamed Fofanah

The matter involving the leader of the unregistered People’s Movement For Democratic Change (PMDC) Mr. Charles Margai and Vice President Solomon Berewa is being heard by Justice Ademusu at the Freetown High Court. Mr. Margai stands accused of riotous conduct after an alleged fracas between his supporters and the entourage of the Vice President in the southern Bo. There has been a motion, which was filed on behalf of the Applicant for a transfer of the matter from Bo Magistrate court to Freetown. Lawyer S A Bah Senior State Counsel, representing the Applicant, tabled another application yesterday before Justice Ademusu requesting that an amendment be made on the Motion papers, replacing the word “State’ in the title with that of “Inspector General of Police” as Applicant. This amendment, he requested, should also be made to the Affidavit in support of the motion and the certificates of service. He pointed to the Judge that they were not seeking any new relief and that “the amendment is a

Charles Margai battles in High Court

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patent error not a latent error and it does not cause any injustice to the Applicant or the Respondent.”

Mr Charles Margai, who is the first accused Respondent and is appearing in person, objected to the amendment, stating that his worry was not the amendment being sought to make in the motion paper but the Affidavit. He pointed out that the “Affidavit is a sworn document under oath and for such to be amended there has to be a specific provision allowing such amendment”. He argued that since they had not assisted the court with the authority for such amendment to be done and he could not direct them where they could seek it, he objected to the application. Lawyer AB Lansana, who is representing the 2nd and 11th accused persons, said he “is associating with the argument of the 1st accused and upheld the objection on behalf of the 2nd and 11th.”

“Lawyer SA Bah rose up again to argue that the amendment sought did not affect the substance of the affidavit only the title and would not want to waste the Judge’s time.”
Almost On Our Own Now

Concord Times (Freetown)
OPINION
January 12, 2006
Posted to the web January 12, 2006
Freetown

On Sunday last week, the last contingent of UN troops who were involved in Sierra Leone's peace process, a company of Nigerian soldiers who had ended up guarding the Special Court for Sierra Leone, quietly left the country after a brief and almost furtive - given the huge significance of the occasion - ceremony.

The ceremony marked the first time since President Joseph Momoh formally requested Nigerian support to fight off the rampaging Revolutionary United Front (RUF) militias in 1991 that Nigerian soldiers are not part of the security detail of Sierra Leone. The Nigerians were replaced by a company of Mongolian soldiers, whose brief is limited to securing the Special Court.

A few dozens of British soldiers remain under IMATT: they are helping to train the Sierra Leone army, and to re-establish normative order within the armed forces.

The stability of Sierra Leone will hinge largely on how successful this process will be; and while there are much grounds for optimism, it should not be forgotten that the Sierra Leone military has had to undergo several attempts at reform and reorganisation in the past, and the fact that these efforts are repeated again and again is ground for caution. The point is that the armed forces - and one should include here the police force, also undergoing transformation with support from the British - are only a part of the fabric of state and society (though admittedly a very critical one) which ensures stability and good governance. And Sierra Leone has been one of West Africa's most unstable countries, having suffered coups and violent upheavals and collapse.

Perhaps Sierra Leone's biggest problem, and what has been at the heart of its instability, is the incoherence and utter fragility of its political elite, including those holding at any moment political offices, and those who pretend to be in the opposition. Political infighting, while to be expected in any democracy, is often characterized by pettiness and self-destructive gestures. For example, the recent fracas involving supporters of the embittered former Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) candidate Charles Margai and those of Solomon Berewa is extremely disquieting in more ways than one. Margai, though reputedly of solid integrity (a rare commodity among the political classes), is difficult to like: he can be theatrical (he has this irritating habit of copying all letters he sends to the President to heads of foreign missions, a gesture that should embarrass these missions); he often comes across as arrogant and possessing more passion and ambition than grasp of complicated issues; and he can seem demagogic. None of this, however, warrants the apparently clumsy attempts by the government to entrap him legally and politically. His movement, which, while drawing upon the disenchantment of a section of the SLPP's political base but probably poses no lasting threat to the formidable party, ought to have been registered as a political party by now. (Margai's argument that the delay in setting up the Political Parties Registration Board is unreasonable makes sense: it was the government itself which signaled an early start to campaigning for the 2007 polls, and therefore should make sure the field is level by ensuring there are no legal barriers preventing others from being competitive). The confrontation, which quickly warranted the involvement of foreign forces, should never
have been allowed to happen. It was a very bad signal indeed - to those who are known to capitalize on such apparent political meltdown to attempt to usurp the political order.

Overall the Kabbah administration, with few lapses, has demonstrated a commendable commitment to openness and fairness. This sense of gravitas should be maintained.
Subversion
Omrie Golley arrested

Former RUF spokesman Omrie Michiel Golley was yesterday arrested and taken to the CID headquarters for questioning.

According to a statement read out by President Kabbah and broadcast over national radio and television Golley's arrest was "effected after suspicion that he has been engaged in subversive activities.

He added that his government was treating the issue very seriously.

The President did not elaborate on the reasons for the arrest, but said that the outcome of further investigations will be made known to the public.

He called on the people to be calm, stating that the ongoing talks with the FRC under the control of the security forces.

Golley was spokesman for the RUF until he was publicly sacked by Foday Sankoh in 2000. He later rejoined the peace process and was involved in high level negotiations on the side of the RUF until the end of the war was declared.
Sierra Leone arrests former rebel

by
Friday 13 January 2006 6:17 AM GMT

Security forces in Sierra Leone have arrested a former spokesman for the West African country's disbanded rebel movement, the president said.

Omrie Golley was "arrested and detained after suspicion he was engaged in subversive activities," Ahmed Tejan Kabbah said in an announcement broadcast on state radio and television on Thursday.

The government was "treating the matter very seriously", President Kabbah said.

Golley was a spokesman and senior political leader for the Revolutionary United Front rebel group, whose fighters infamously severed the limbs of their victims, terrorising the country and killing tens of thousands of civilians during a decade-long war that began in 1991.

The rebellion was crushed by a combination of British troops, UN forces and soldiers from neighbouring Guinea, and Sierra Leone has been mostly peaceful since.

A 17,000-strong UN mission, once the largest in the world, pulled out of the country in the final days of 2005.

Golley is believed to have been living in exile in London for the last few years, and returned to the country two weeks ago.

AP
By

You can find this article at:
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 Jan 2006

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

01/12/2006 07:33:24

**Liberia investigates plot to destabilize new government**

Monrovia_:(dpa) _ The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has confirmed that a man arrested in the north-west of the country on suspicion of engaging in subversive activities is under investigation in Monrovia, according to press reports Thursday.

TELEGRAPH 11/01/2006

**Liberian group stranded at BWI Charter flight to Africa fails to materialize**

BRADLEY OLSON AND ANDREA SIEGEL, The Baltimore Sun

A group of more than 100 Liberian nationals expecting to fly to Monrovia for the inauguration of their country's - and Africa's - first female president were stranded in Maryland yesterday after a charter flight they paid for never materialized.

It was unclear whether the flight was canceled or never scheduled, but the charter facilitator said the Liberians would get full refunds. Because flights to the West African country are limited and expensive, a Liberian Embassy official said many would probably be unable to make new travel arrangements in time for the inauguration.

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Lessons from West Africa's dirty war**

By Mark Doyle, BBC World Affairs correspondent 12/01/2005

It looked more like a child's vision of the surface of the moon than a West African town. Koidu, in eastern Sierra Leone, in August 2001, had been dug over so comprehensively that it resembled a lunar landscape. Everywhere I looked there were giant watery holes surrounded by piles of gravel. And in the holes, hundreds of diamond miners were panning for gems. They were digging in what was once the main road; they were digging in the marketplace. In one house I peered into, they were even digging in the living room.

A United Nations peacekeeper from Pakistan was posted on a small bridge across a stream in the middle of the town. I asked him what he was doing there. "I'm protecting the bridge," he replied.

**Local Media – Newspapers**

**Legislators-elect Hold Elections Tomorrow**

(The Analyst)

- Members of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly and Representatives-elect finally reached an agreement yesterday for the latter to conduct elections tomorrow for the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.
UNMIL Force Commander Assures Security for Inauguration
(The Inquirer)
- UNMIL Force Commander Lt.-General Chikadibia Obiakor told the UNMIL weekly press briefing yesterday that UNMIL troops will deploy around the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County and throughout Monrovia to ensure a safe environment for Monday's inauguration.

UNMIL Investigates Alleged Rebel Activities in Gbarpolu County
(Daily Observer)
- Addressing journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss said that UNMIL had launched an investigation into persistent rumors of rebel activities in the forests of Gbarpolu County.

UN Envoy Promises Cooperation with Liberia
(Daily Observer and The News)
- Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Good Governance Jordan Ryan told journalists in Monrovia yesterday that he would work with the Liberian government in its rebuilding and development efforts.

Civil Society Groups Assess UNMIL's Performance
(Daily Observer)
- Three west African civil society groups, NAYMOTE-Partners for Democratic Development and Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy of Liberia and Campaign for Good Governance of Sierra Leone recently began conducting a public opinion survey of UNMIL's work in Liberia, a press release said.

Six African Presidents Confirm Presence at Inauguration
(The News)
- At least six African Presidents—Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, John Kufuor of Ghana, Sierra Leone's Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, South Africa's Thabo Mbeki, Laurent Gbagbo of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso's Blaise Campaore—have confirmed their presence in Monrovia for the historic inauguration on Monday, Information Minister William Allen told journalists following a cabinet meeting yesterday.

Aid Sanctions on Liberia Lifted
(The News)
- Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Christian Herbert revealed in Monrovia recently that Liberia was now eligible to receive direct aid from the European Union and its partners following the lifting of sanctions by the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries.

World Women Leaders Plan Solidarity Rally for Johnson-Sirleaf
(The News)
- Quoting diplomatic sources in the Nigerian Capital Abuja, The Tribune of Nigeria reports that a delegation of women leaders, including wives of presidents will be in attendance at the inauguration as a show of solidarity with Johnson-Sirleaf on her emergence as Africa's first elected female president.

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)
Transitional Government Chairman Holds Final Cabinet Meeting
- Briefing journalists following the final cabinet meeting of the National Transitional Government yesterday, Information Minister William Allen said that Chairman
Charles Gyude Bryant expressed gratitude to members of the cabinet for supporting the government during the transition from war to peace.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Executive Mansion Security Services Retrieve Stolen Vehicle from Guinea
- In an interview, Deputy Special Security Services (SSS) Director Henrique Wolo confirmed that an SSS vehicle which had been stolen was retrieved from neighboring Guinea with the cooperation of Guinean security forces.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Development Institute Calls on Government to Support the Review of Forest Concession
- In a press statement, the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) has called on the government to implement the recommendations in a forest concession review report which said that 26 million acres of forest had been allocated under various concessions and forest utilization agreements.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wants Liberians to Lead Development Initiatives
- Addressing UNMIL’s weekly press briefing yesterday, the new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance Jordan Ryan called on Liberians to lead the way in developing their country, adding that they should do so with patriotism.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Force Commander Says UNMIL Will Deal with Troublemakers
- Speaking at a news conference yesterday, UNMIL Force Commander Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor said that the Mission was capable of responding to any incident in Liberia.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)

West African Private Sector Representatives Set Up Working Group for a Regional Business Council
- At the ECOWAS summit in Niamey, Niger, representatives of the private sector in West Africa have constituted a working group to work out ways to form a business council for West Africa, an ECOWAS Secretariat source said. The group noted that the creation of the council is to stimulate greater private sector participation in the regional integration process.

New Legislators Elect Leadership Friday

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

Bureau of Immigration Says Liberian Clergyman Not Deported from Nigeria
- Reacting to claims of deportation leveled by Pastor Konah Sheriff, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Division of Protective Service Chief of Operation Fonati Nyenpen said that he had no records to prove that Pastor Sheriff had been deported from Nigeria for being critical of the Catholic Church there.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.
Letter dated 30 December 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone containing an account of the Committee’s activities for 2005 (see annex). The report is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council dated 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(Signed) Ronaldo Moti Sardenberg
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone
Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2005.


3. For 2005, the Bureau consisted of Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil) as Chairman, with the delegations of Algeria and Argentina providing the Vice-Chairmen (see S/2005/3).

4. The Committee did not meet during the reporting period. However, the members were able to take all necessary decisions through the no-objection procedure.

II. Background information and summary of the work of the Committee

A. Background information

5. By its resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, the Security Council, determining that the situation in Sierra Leone, following the military coup of 25 May 1997, constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, imposed a mandatory ban on the sale or supply by States to Sierra Leone of arms and related matériel as well as petroleum and petroleum products. The Security Council, by paragraph 5 of the resolution, also imposed travel restrictions on members of the military junta and adult members of their families. Subsequently, by its resolution 1156 (1998) of 15 March 1998, the Council lifted the oil embargo and, by its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, confirmed the removal of sanctions on the Government and reimposed the embargo on the sale or supply of arms to Sierra Leone other than to the Government, as well as the travel ban on leading members of the Revolutionary United Front and of the former military junta.

6. On 5 July 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1306 (2000), in which it decided, inter alia, that all States should, for an initial period of 18 months, prohibit the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the certificate of origin regime would be exempt from those measures.

7. The Council’s prohibitions on the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the certificate of origin regime were extended for an additional period of 11 months by its resolution 1385 (2001), and for another period of 6 months by its resolution 1446 (2002).
8. On 5 June 2003, the President of the Security Council read out a statement to the press (S/7778) in which he noted, inter alia, that in the light of the increased efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to control and manage its diamond industry and ensure proper control over diamond-mining areas and its full participation in the Kimberley Process, members of the Council had agreed not to renew the prohibition against the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the certificate of origin regime.

9. With the expiration of the Council’s measures concerning diamonds from Sierra Leone, the mandate of the Committee is once again wholly contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 1171 (1998), which stipulates that the Committee should undertake the tasks referred to in paragraph 10 (a), (b), (c), (d), (f) and (h) of resolution 1132 (1997) in connection with the arms embargo on non-State actors and the travel ban imposed by resolution 1171 (1998), both of which are still in force.

10. As at the date of the present report, the travel ban list includes the names of 30 individuals designated as leading members of the former military junta in Sierra Leone, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), or as leading members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The travel ban list was last revised on 20 September 2004, when 16 names were removed on the basis of information provided by the Government of Sierra Leone. In a letter dated 30 September 2004, the Chairman informed the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone that the Committee would welcome any further information or recommendations from the Government in connection with the travel ban list or the individuals whose names are inscribed therein. However, in the course of 2005 no further information was received from the Government of Sierra Leone.

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

11. The Committee received a letter dated 2 August 2005 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations informing the Committee of the proposed export of a diesel electric generator from Greece to Sierra Leone by a South African power company. In a reply dated 11 August 2005, the Chairman conveyed the view of the members of the Committee that such equipment did not constitute arms or related materiel as referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998) and was therefore not subject to the Committee’s consideration.

12. In a letter dated 22 August 2005, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Committee of the export of blank ammunition and demolition stores to Sierra Leone, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998). In accordance with the same paragraph, the Chairman informed the President of the Security Council about the notification received from the United Kingdom in a letter dated 29 August 2005 (S/2005/561).

13. In a letter dated 3 November 2005, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Committee of its intention to grant a licence to a United Kingdom company for the export of armoured cars for use by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998). In accordance with the same paragraph, the Chairman informed the President of the Security Council about the notification received from the United Kingdom in a letter dated 10 November 2005 (S/2005/724).
C. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime

14. During the reporting period, no violations or alleged violations of the sanctions regime were brought to the attention of the Committee.

III. Observations

15. In his twenty-seventh report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (S/2005/777), the Secretary-General noted that the overall security situation in the country had remained stable, and that the national security agencies had continued to acquit themselves satisfactorily since UNAMSIL transferred security primacy to them in 2004.

16. During his two-year term, the Chairman has consulted with members of the Committee on the appropriate time to streamline the legal basis for sanctions in Sierra Leone, while avoiding any disturbance to stability and safeguarding the work of the Special Court.

17. It is the view of the Chairman that following the completion of the drawdown of UNAMSIL, the time will be ripe for the Security Council to revisit the legal basis of its measures concerning Sierra Leone. In that regard, he trusts that consultations within the Committee and with the Government of Sierra Leone, as well as with the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, soon to be implemented in accordance with resolution 1620 (2005), will be of use to the Security Council.