The Methodist Church, built in 1848, in historic Kent village on the Freetown Peninsula.

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:
Tuesday, 13 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217
### Local News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Hero Gone At Last</td>
<td>The Spectator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Norman’s Funeral…SLPP MP Nearly Lynched</td>
<td>The Exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Margai Ambushed</td>
<td>The Exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Hinga Norma The Case Is………</td>
<td>Concord Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo News</td>
<td>Awareness Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinga Nomnan’s Funeral Photos</td>
<td>Awareness Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Training for Paramount Chiefs, Others</td>
<td>Standard Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defenders of Democracy Are in Abject Poverty</td>
<td>Awoko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golley Admitted at Choitram Hospital</td>
<td>Awoko</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary</td>
<td>UNMIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmil Reports Decline in Sexual Exploitation</td>
<td>The Inquirer (Monrovia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No One is Above the Law: New DOJ Leadership Needed</td>
<td>Jurist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Team Accuses Sudan of Darfur War Crimes</td>
<td>Voice of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.N. Team: World Must Protect Darfur Civilians From</td>
<td>Associated Press</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Hero Gone At Last

Sierra Leone has lost a real friend, brother father and a patriot. When you listen to close relatives, friends of the late Sam Hinga Norman you imagine how much God loves him and even protected him in order to lay his life for the redemption of Sierra Leone.

According to History Norman was said to have trained the first set of soldiers no sooner Sierra Leone attained independence from Britain. He was later arrested by President Stevens for wanting to overthrow the APC Government. When he was released Hinga Norman wasted no time but to flee to Liberia for safety. This man decided to come home when Joseph Saidu Momoh took the reins of power. Hinga Norman was later crowned Chief of Nguala Village, very close to Mongere in the South of Sierra Leone. Sam Hinga Norman was one of those who joined forces with the likes of Dr. Alpha Lavalle and others to fight against the RUF rebels. What continued to interest Sierra Leoneans is, after the plotting and assassination of Dr. Alpha Lavalle; Hinga Norman then rose to prominence. Norman in his village, his mystical disappearance to this day puzzled those fighters.

He is a brave fighter, a patriot; a man who laid his life for Sierra Leoneans to be free. He denied Foday Sankoh and his boys from raising this nation to the ground. Chief Sam Hinga Norman stood his ground for President Kabbah's Government to be reinstated after the AFRC insurgency. Overthrew his Government Hinga Norman became Deputy Minister of Defence until when news spread around the city that he wanted to overthrow President Kabbah. He was removed from Defence Ministry to Internal Affairs where he left until his arrest by the United Nation backed Special Court in Sierra Leone. He spent almost four years before his death at the Special Court.

A Hero has fallen indeed but we should not weep as if we don’t have hope. Chief Norman has gone but his deeds, action will never wiped off our minds. You served mankind, you showed Sierra Leoneans that you can do anything to an extent of sacrificing his life for us all, your effort was accepted. This great man was born on the 1st January 1940, he lived for 67 years may GOD grant him eternal rest. Sierra Leoneans will truly miss this hero’s love, whose effort to make Sierra Leone peaceful has earn him great respect. It is true that for Sierra Leoneans to be free some people have to make sacrifices and if Hinga is the man God has chosen as a sacrifice for the attainment of peace than so be it, may God grant him pardon and peace in the next world.
At Norman's Funeral...

SLPP MP Nearly Lynched

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament; Hon Elizabeth Alpha Lavalie, who was at Ngolahun Village, Mongere, Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District to extend condolences to the bereaved family of the late Sam Hinga Norman, was reported to have been nearly lynched for utterances made by her that never went down well with the family of the late man. Sources at the funeral allege that Mrs. Lavalie, in her statement at the funeral, stated that the late man should have mercy on the SLPP, the President and the government of Sierra Leone, over what she allegedly described as, a misunderstanding of the circumstances that surrounded the Norman issue and that it was a mere allegation that was still being probed by the Special Court, that landed the late man in custody, and that the SLPP was not directly responsible for Norman’s death. Mrs. Lavalie’s statement, it was alleged, provoked mourners to uncontrollable anger that led them to start booing at her. She was alleged to have been reminded by the family that the occasion was not meant for political sermons and that they would only entertain genuine sympathizers and not politicians who are out to deceive people with sugar coated words. She was reported to have been nearly lynched except for the timely intervention of the son of the late man, Sam Hinga Norman Jnr.

Contd. page 2
Charles Margai Ambushed

By Special Correspondent

In the typical African tradition, people are expected to mourn the dead, and to extend condolences to the bereaved family. Last Saturday, Presidential candidate for the PMDC Mr. Charles Margai was almost ambushed by well-wishers and sympathisers after the funeral service of the late Capt. and ex-Minister of...

Contd. page 2

From front page

Defence Chief Samuel Hinga Norman at the Salvation Church in Bo. Margai was held hostage for about 45 minutes by mourners countrywide who admired the challenger, he took to ensure that Norman receives a funeral befitting a hero.

When our correspondent contacted one of the ring leaders of the funeral ceremony, Mr. Mohamed Suma, he maintained that they are highly impressed by the latest development and contribution that Margai made towards the funeral by footing the bills to convey the late man's remains to Bo and eventually, to his final resting place. Margai donated Five million leones to the bereaved family and vowed to respect the late man as a hero. He accompanied the late man's remains to his final rest at Ngolahun Village, Bo District.
By PEL Koroma

CONTR! CONE - CONE -CONE! CONE
"HINGA NORMAN IS DEAD" the toll announces the fallen of a HERO - a Soldier, Politician, Prisoner, Regent Chief, Kamajor boss - Korindo Bondo and fighter, Democrat, Deputy Defence Minister, Civil Defence Force Coordinator, Internal Affairs Minister, Special Court Indictee and finally Dead and no more.

When one considers all these stages in a man’s life, one will surely ascertain that the further a man goes from his house in which he is truly known, the more liable he is both to misrepresentation and non-recognition.

The talk for Hingga Norman has just started in the history of Sierra Leone. The Civil Society Movement’s action to solely spear head the burial ceremony of Pa Hingga Norman, frowning on the participation of politicians was unfounded. Hingga Norman remained a politician until his death. He was a political heavy weight whose actions was an indelible mark in the history of Sierra Leone.

Apportioning blame on specific political group for the demise of Hingga Norman is ungodly. The case is, we should accept together as Sierra Leonians that our decision for the Special Court was hasty. This has proven that mostly actions taken during periods of vexation could be dangerous. If we are honest enough, The Teachers Union, The Bar Association, Medical Services Association, MRD, CMS, Drivers Union, Students Union, Petty Traders Association, Farmers Association, Parliament, Judges and the President and his Cabinet together with the people of Sierra Leone advocated for a Special Court. God bless the few Sierra Leonians who actually viewed the Special Court at that time as a waste of resources which could have been used to develop the people. The Special Court project for the West has not yielded any dividend to the people. Instead, it has created confusion, misunderstanding and rendered the TRC useless. God has proven that we were wrong to have opted for the Special Court as a nation. All the people we want to see judgment passed over have bowed down to death naturally even though in the hands of the White man’s court. But who to blame? Sierra Leonians really never knew the court was going to target Hingga Norman. “those who bear the greatest responsibility” became the key phrase with the UN engineered court. This saw Hingga Norman falling to the hook of the Special Court. It was critical that some members of the CDF were determined to prosecute Hingga Norman. Anyway differences must erupt in any movement especially that targeting leadership and control.

My problem with Civil Society is that none ever dare lift a finger against the special court. It was taken hook line and sinker. The leaders of Civil Society movement will not say they were not consulted for the Special Court but even at that, it was expected as a group armed with all rights accorded citizens of Sierra Leone to stand out and tell the President and the UN that the court will never heal the wounds, instead it will widen the division. Festus Minah, Charles Mambu and others braved the guns when they asked the junta boys to quit power in 1995. Civilians fought with soldiers on the Streets and the soldiers finally succumbed to the dictate of the people which saw Kabbah to power. Minah
and his friends preached civil disobedience in the 1997 interregnum.

They succeeded. The people listened to them. Let me now point out to Minah and Mambu that they did not make any effort to dame the Special Court even when they as opinion leaders discovered that the Special Court was a recipe for disunity, defying the much needed TRC. You should be blaming yourselves now for Hinga Norman dying a prisoner. You have failed in your role as Civil Society leaders. You should have educated the people on the disadvantages of the Special Court and register your protest.

Fortunately, Sierra Leone being a donor driven country, is been regulated by the West. The major requirement for relation with donors is for one to be democratic. Mambu and Minah will not tell me that Kabbah was going to kill them had they inspired the people to protest against the Special Court. Forget about the politics. If you people had really believed that Hinga Norman was another GEORGE WASHINGTON, you would have done your part by opening another chapter for his freedom. But you people have been all quiet all this while even when you people have the apparatus to change things. It is now political party affair but you failed in the capacity you are defending.

I am not convinced the way the Civil Society has portrayed Hinga Norman’s death. Charles Margai of PMDC and Ernest Koroma of APC also supported the Special Court whole heartedly as Sierra Leoneans. But why now do they want to make political gains out of Hinga Norman’s death? Ernest Koroma never proposed a bill in parliament to bring down the Special Court as he believed it was alien to our African culture. In Africa, we reconcile. Infact, God knows Hinga Norman’s arrest seemed like a plus to Ernest Koroma four years ago. What is the point now with his death? God knows Ernest and his APC regarded Norman’s arrest as a dog eat dog issue that never was any issue. People are not fools.

What does Ernest refer to as government? Ernest Koroma’s minority would have brought peoples attention to reality but it was never Ernest’ concern. Ernest favoured the court because he wanted international recognition. When will Africa get people that will stand against Western infiltration? Ernest should know that no particular group sacrificed Norman but the people of Sierra Leone themselves.

For Charles Margai, no body will listen to him. He is not a Kamajor, let me hastily remind him. In times of trouble, turbulence, fire and warling Charles was not with them. Charles should not preach politics to Hinga Norman’s friends. It is impossible for them to pitch tent with him now. Charles is a stranger to the militia men. During the war, Charles distanced the Kamajors. Charles did not identify himself with the displaced people at the heath of the war. What NGO did Charles spear head? All is just politics? No. Infact Charles have not defended women’s right in the past, let alone children’s right. He is an old lawyer and should have tried to advocate in the past for all these human rights recognized by the United Nations. Infact, I can tell Charles Margai as a traditional man that Hinga Norman died with serious grudge against people like him. What happened at the Special Court? Hinga Norman’s family knows. They will not forget and easily give Charles the seat by the window. Hinga Norman was never a friend of Charles. The people of the South and the country at large knows. He was one of Charles adversary in the SLPP. Why has his death become so paramount to Charles. The case is, Charles and Ernest are loosing but should not take along our great man Chief Hinga Norman with them.

Let posterity be the best judge. Charles and Ernest will not make any gain out of Norman’s death. The people know the truth.

The family of Hinga Norman should realize that Hinga Norman’s death as a prisoner shows the cruelty of fate. It was not SLPP that handed Norman to the Special Court. The fact is the people wanted the court. I want the family to know that majority members of the SLPP still hold Hinga Norman in high esteem. Most people are not happy especially for the stance taken by the Civil Society Movement. Hinga Norman’s funeral was supposed to be SLPP burial. Let members of the Hinga Norman family be patient and mourn the loose. Always remember that SLPP is a home for all the Hinga Norman family. It is not easy to start and therefore good to mend, amend and forge ahead. Norman spent his last sweat and energy for the SLPP party. The party belongs to no individual. Hinga Norman has his records in the SLPP, so I advise all his family members to leave space for the love the deceased manifested for his party. A lot of good people in the SLPP will surely not allow Hinga Norman’s work to go unnoticed.

The family of Hinga Norman should realize that Hinga Norman’s death as a prisoner shows the cruelty of fate. It was not SLPP that handed Norman to the Special Court.

The fact is the people wanted the court. I want the family to know that majority members of the SLPP still hold Hinga Norman in high esteem.
Hospital where Hingga Norman Spent his last days

Another view of the Hospital where Hingga Norman spent his last days in Dakar, Senegal

The Hospital bed that was allegedly being used by the late Chief Hingga Norman

An aerial shot showing Special Court and Senegalese Security Personnel guarding the front of Norman's room

More of the supplies allegedly provided for the late Chief

The private bathroom that was allegedly being used by the late Chief during his admission period at the hospital

The door leading from the hospital room where Hingga Norman spent his last days
Awareness Times
Tuesday, 13 March 2007

Hinga Norman’s Funeral Photos

*Hon. Elizabeth Lavalie, Dr. J.D. Rogers among the hundreds of mourners at Chief Norman’s funeral, with Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie in the 2nd row*

*The Casket is being closed in preparation for the burial*

*Albert Norman and Sam Norman son and brother respectively of late Chief Norman paying their last respect*

*Sam Norman wipes the Casket containing the body of his late father before it was lowered into the grave*

*The Casket being lowered into Chief Norman’s final resting place*
Human Rights Training for Paramount Chiefs, others

In Sierra Leone, the official court system operates only in the main cities - Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, and Makeni. Informal and traditional mechanisms of justice are often more accessible to poor and disadvantaged people and have the potential to provide speedy, affordable and meaningful remedies. JSDP, however, recognizes the need for these traditional systems to evolve toward serving justice in full respect of Sierra Leone's constitution and international human rights standards to which the country is committed, such as, gender equality, discrimination for reasons of reasons of age or social status, and respect for life and the due process of the law.

Discrimination against women and bias based on social status are particularly rampant as highlighted in the report of the survey on Silenced Injustices in seven chiefdoms of Moyamba District commissioned by JSDP. One of the principle action points from the survey was to provide human rights training to paramount chiefs and local court officials as a way of addressing issues of silenced injustices.

JSDP organized training for paramount chiefs and local court officials in Moyamba district from the 21st to 24th February 2007 to mainstream human rights norms into local traditional justice systems, values and concepts. Human rights principles and the rights of women were among the issues dealt with during the workshop. The participants were also equipped with appropriate skills and resources to replicate the training in their respective chiefdoms.
LAWCLA report disclose

Defenders of democracy are in abject poverty

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) has disclosed in a just-published report that women who are defenders of democracy are in abject poverty.

The report, which is a simplified version of discriminatory laws against women in Sierra Leone, is not only an eye-opener but also serves as a bedrock urging the government to repeal these bigoted laws.

The report, which was compiled by LAWCLA in collaboration with the 50/50 group and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), discloses that in 1996 when the military junta in power attempted to disturb the electoral process, women took to the streets to protest, noting that after the military coup of 1997 women’s groups played a central role in the protest movement to defend democracy.

Notwithstanding these numerous sacrifices, the report highlights that “74% of female are poor, living on less than 0.50USD a day.”

“Poverty among women result from their long hours of work and very low are of financial returns of the income generating activities in which they are engaged,” the report notes.

With regards to health issues, the report continues: “women’s access to adequate health facilities is very low in Sierra Leone.”

“The civil war in the country between 1991 and 2001 resulted in the substantial destruction of health care facilities, adding that women’s life expectancy rate at birth of 40.04 is the lowest in the world and the infant death rate has risen from 146 per 1,000 in 1990 to 164 per 1,000 in 1996 and estimates for today are even higher,” the report states.
By Betty Milton

Golley admitted at Choithrams hospital

Former spokesman of the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Omri Michael Golley, is at present admitted at the Choithrams Memorial hospital in Freetown on the instruction of the Prisons doctor.

Golley, who currently faces treason charges, was taken to the Choithrams hospital on Friday after the Prisons medical doctor, M.L. Conte-Coker, confirmed that the suspect was seriously ill and his condition had been deteriorating for the past ten days. Dr. M.L. Conte-Coker, the Prisons medical doctor has disclosed that treason suspect Omri Michael Golley is seriously ill and his condition has been deteriorating continuously for the past ten days.

In a letter, sent to the Director of Prisons, the doctor says, “Mr Omri Golley is suffering from severe unstable hypertension and angina pectoris, and also the left ventricle of his heart is hypertrophied.” In a letter dated March 1, this year, and copied to the Director of Prisons, Dr. Conte-Coker said, Mr. Omri Golley is suffering from severe unstable hypertension and angina pectoris, and also the left ventricle of his heart is hypertrophied.

It goes on: “according to his private physician he needs to be admitted and his vital signs monitored every four hours,” adding that, “I am therefore referring him to his private physician for admission at the Choithrams Memorial hospital where his physician is attached.” He went on, according to his private physician he needs to be admitted and his vital signs monitored every four hours, adding, I am therefore referring him to his private physician for admission at the Choithrams Memorial hospital where his physician is attached.

Golley’s lawyer, James Oury, also states in a press release on the state of his client’s health that, “Mr Golley’s medical condition includes high blood pressure and chest pain,” noting that, “medical experts say these could lead to heart attack.” James Oury further affirms that, “it is important that Mr Golley obtains urgent tests relating to his heart, for which there are no available facilities in Sierra Leone right now, and failure to provide such treatment immediately could be life threatening.” James Oury affirmed that, it is important that Mr. Golley obtains urgent tests relating to his heart, for which there are no available facilities in Sierra Leone right now. Failure to provide such treatment immediately could be life threatening.

The release goes on to explain that Golley’s UK lawyers, who are awaiting word from the authorities in Freetown, have pointed out that admission to the Choithrams Memorial hospital for monitoring is not the answer to their client’s serious health problems. The release went on, Mr. Golley’s UK lawyers who are awaiting word from the authorities in Freetown, have pointed out that admission to the Choithrams Memorial hospital for monitoring is not the answer to their client’s serious health problems.
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 March 2007

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

**International Clips on West Africa**

There were no relevant stories on West Africa in the international media today.

**Local Media – Newspaper**

**UNMIL Reports Decrease in Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

*(The Informer, The Inquirer, Heritage, New Democrat, New Vision and Liberian Express)*

- In its report for 2006, the United Nations Mission in Liberia announced that cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) implicating personnel and staff of the Mission decreased from 45 in 2005 to 30 in 2006 and attributed the progress to the preventive measures taken. The measures included a compulsory induction course for all military and civilian staff members to raise awareness about the effects and consequences of SEA.

**Liberian Leader in Japan as Part of Tour**


- An Executive Mansion statement issued in Monrovia said President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has arrived in Japan at the start of a two day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and will meet with Japanese officials including the Emperor of Japan and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe today.

**Government Announces Waiver of Property Tax Arrears**


- A press release issued in Monrovia yesterday said that the Government announced tax waivers to owners of land, buildings and rental dating back to 2005 in view of the fact that the war-era created major economic setback to many property owners.

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

**President Sirleaf Arrives in Japan as Part of Tour**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

**UN Envoys Calls for Oneness among Liberians**

- Speaking at the weekend during a groundbreaking ceremony of a new administrative complex in Cestos, Rivercess County, the Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General for Good Governance and Rule of Law, Jordan Ryan urged the people of Rivercess County to transform the spirit of oneness into development and said world was ready to assist Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

**US Embassy Launches Development Project Sarpo Park Dwellers**

- During the launch of a US$1.4 million dollars project to protect Liberia’s bio-diversity in the Sarpo National Park, U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth said the program was
designed to provide alternative livelihood to local communities around the park as incentives for them to participate in conservation activities.

- The project is being funded by the American government through USAID and is being executed by the Civilian Conservation Core.
- Ambassador Booth said under the civilian conservation core the communities will receive development project, skills training and service provision and said it is anticipated that the project would serve as a model for conservation and development in the country.

**Star Radio** (News culled from websites today at 8:30 am)

**Information Ministry Denies Sanctioning “Spying” on Printing Houses**

- In an interview, the Assistant Information Minister for Information Services, Gabriel Williams said the ministry attention has been drawn to reports that certain individuals are sneaking into printing houses to spy on headlines of newspapers.
- Minister Williams said these individuals were doing so under the disguise of being state security but said this was criminal and does not have the approval of the government. He said the government would contact various security agencies in the country to verify the reports.

*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.*
The Inquirer (Monrovia)
Monday, 12 March 2007

**Unmil Reports Decline in Sexual Exploitation**

The UN Mission in Liberia, UNMIL, has released its Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) report for 2006, showing a decrease in the number of allegations reported during the year.

According to UNMIL 30 allegations were reported in 2006 as compared to 45 in 2005.

The release of the report is in fulfillment of the commitment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, to implement UN policy of keeping the public regularly informed about efforts being made to eradicate any incidents of S.E.A. involving UN personnel.

"We have made some progress in our prevention efforts and we will continue our efforts to reinforce the UN's zero tolerance policy, because even one incident of sexual exploitation and abuse is one too many," says the UN Envoy. "Any such incident distracts from the hard work and sacrifice of the vast majority of UN peacekeeping personnel."

Ten of the reported cases under investigation allegedly involved sex with minors; two are of sexual assault and rape of adults; one is in connection with prostitution; and 17 involved consensual relationships with members of the local population. These independent and thorough investigations are conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), which reports directly to its New York Headquarters.

The release said an OIOS investigation into four of the 30 allegations has been completed, and the full reports are awaited. Once these reports are released UNMIL will make the outcomes known and where allegations are substantiated, then necessary disciplinary action will be taken.

The 2006 UNMIL Report on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse shows that the decrease in the number of allegations - compared to the previous year - was mainly due to the preventive measures taken by the mission, and its Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU) which became fully operational in 2006.

These measures included a compulsory induction course for all military and civilian staff members to raise awareness about the effects and consequences of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The UN Mission in Liberia has also adopted a collective approach to prevention by involving the Liberian government, NGOs and the local communities in various programmes aimed at raising awareness. So far, 35 local NGOs have been trained to spread the UN's message on S.E.A. prevention.

Furthermore, UNMIL has drawn-up a list of establishments known for promoting and condoning prostitution, and areas reputed to be involved in the sale and use of narcotic drugs and the trafficking in persons which are "Off limits" to UNMIL personnel.
These "Off-limit" areas were kept under constant surveillance and the list was regularly reviewed. Moreover, the UN Secretary-General's Zero Tolerance policy on S.E.A. has been constantly publicised within the mission and across Liberia.

UNMIL has also established a dedicated telephone hotline to encourage the public to freely and confidentially report any allegations or complaints of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

UNMIL continues to take allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse very seriously and will work with the government of Liberia and other partners to curb all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse in Liberia.
No One is Above the Law: New DOJ Leadership Needed

JURIST Contributing Editor David Crane of Syracuse University College of Law, former Chief Prosecutor for the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone and a former senior inspector general in the US Department of Defense, says that in the wake of revealed misuse of authority by the FBI under the Patriot Act - compounding other missteps related to prisoners of war, torture, political pressure on district attorneys, arrogant abuse of power related to national security and violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act - new leadership is needed in the US Justice Department, and in the FBI in particular...

As Chief Prosecutor of the international war crimes tribunal in West Africa called the Special Court for Sierra Leone, I told the people there that no one is above the law. It was a statement I staked my personal and professional reputation on to prove to a horrified and beaten-down population that the law is the cornerstone of any free and democratic nation. As an American lawyer I used the United States as the example of how we hold our senior leaders accountable for their transgressions.

On Friday, FBI Director Robert Mueller stated that he was the one in charge and should be held accountable for the apparent misuse of an important, yet intrusive law enforcement tool: national security letters. Absolutely, he should be held accountable. This Department of Justice, under the leadership of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, has not served our republic well. From missteps related to prisoners of war, torture, political pressure on district attorneys, to arrogant abuse of power related to national security, including violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and this recent misuse of authorities under the Patriot Act, the chief law enforcement office of the United States has bungled his job.

The cornerstone to this great nation is the law. We are in our second Cold War, an ideological struggle with religious criminals who seek to dominate an entire ancient religion for their own personal agenda. Civilization can only win this struggle by holding fast to the rule of law, using it as the ultimate weapon against those who seek to harm us. When we step away from that principle we begin to move down a very dark path indeed.

Both Gonzales and Mueller admitted publicly that members of our FBI broke the law. Those who did should be appropriately dealt with under the law. Yet the report hints of systemic problems, lack of oversight, sloppy administration and follow-up. It even appears that there was some intent to under-report the use of national security letters. This is a leadership and
management issue at the highest level.

As a former senior inspector general in the Department of Defense and someone who has lead and managed federal and international organizations, large and small for over three decades, I know when an agency is poorly led. The FBI and the Justice Department are poorly led. This recent report by the Inspector General of that department shows this fact.

New leadership is needed in the Justice Department. As these violations of law and policy were under the watch of Robert Mueller, he should resign. No one is above the law, not even the Director of the FBI.

Congress should show leadership, as well and oversee more closely the Attorney General. The term “trust, but verify” is so apt here to ensure that the rule of law is followed in our own Justice Department. How many times can you forgive, overlook, or second-chance conduct that clearly steps away from a document that boldly declared centuries ago: “We the people of the United State, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice…”

David M. Crane is a professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and former founding Chief Prosecutor for the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (2002-2005). He previously spent over 30 years in US federal government service as a Senior Inspector General, Department of Defense, Assistant General Counsel of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and Waldemar A. Solf Professor of International Law at the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s School.
UN Team Accuses Sudan of Darfur War Crimes

A U.N. human rights team has accused Sudan's government of orchestrating war crimes in Darfur, and blocking international attempts to intervene. VOA's Peter Heinlein reports from U.N. headquarters in New York.

The 35-page U.N. report charges the Khartoum government with direct involvement in planning and carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The team, led by Nobel peace prize laureate Jody Williams, says "killing of civilians remains widespread." It adds that, "Rape and sexual violence are widespread and systematic. Torture continues."

The report was issued days after Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir rejected an interim U.N. plan to bolster African Union peacekeeping forces in Darfur.

The rejection was contained in a letter to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. It dashed hopes that blue-helmeted U.N. troops might soon be deployed in Darfur. At least 200,000 people have died in the vast region of western Sudan since war broke out more than four years ago.

The United States has described the massacres in Darfur as genocide. U.N. human rights experts have declined to use that term to describe the killings, but the latest report urges the Security Council to take "urgent further action" to stop the violence.

Britain's U.N. ambassador, Emyr Jones-Parry, Monday called President Bashir's letter a blow to plans for deploying a 22,000-strong U.N. force to replace the badly understaffed 7,000 African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

"I'm very disappointed by that letter," he said. "It's a major setback, and is tantamount to a request for renegotiation of some of the points in the heavy package."

The Security Council is expected to take up the Sudan issue later this week, with the United States and European Council members saying they favor sanctions against the Khartoum government. But veto-wielding Council members China and Russia have both expressed doubts about the wisdom of sanctions.

The mission's report recommends that officials of Sudan's government be tried on war crimes charges, along with leaders of government-backed Arab militias, known as Janjaweed.

The report says that some Darfur rebel forces are also guilty of serious human rights abuses. Mission leader Jody Williams was quoted by The Associated Press Monday as saying some rebels should probably be tried alongside Sudanese officials and Janjaweed leaders.
The U.N. human rights mission was dispatched last December by the Geneva-based U.N. Rights Council, but was not granted access to Darfur. The Sudanese government has denied responsibility for the attacks mentioned in the mission's report, and blamed rebel groups that rejected a Darfur Peace Agreement signed last year in Nigeria.

Sudanese officials Monday declined to comment on the report. They said any response would come Tuesday, when Sudan is scheduled to address the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva.
U.N. team: World must protect Darfur civilians from crimes against humanity

GENEVA — A high-level U.N. human rights team said Monday the Sudanese government has orchestrated crimes against humanity in Darfur, and it urged stronger Security Council action because steps taken so far by the international community have proven ineffective.

In one of the hardest-hitting and most explicit reports in a series submitted to the world body, the team called for U.N. Security Council intervention, sanctions and criminal prosecution.

The team, headed by Nobel peace laureate Jody Williams, was itself barred by Sudanese officials from the restive region, where more than 200,000 people have died and more than 2.5 million have been displaced by fighting in Darfur.

"All U.N. Security Council and (African Union) Peace and Security Council resolutions should be fully implemented, including those relating to travel bans and the freezing of funds, assets, and economic resources of those who commit violations," the 35-page report said.

Important steps have been taken by the international community, including the African Union and the United Nations, but "these have been largely resisted and obstructed, and have proven inadequate and ineffective," the report said.

The conflict began when members of the region's ethnic African tribes took up arms against what they saw as decades of neglect and discrimination by the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum. It is accused of unleashing a pro-government Arab militia, known as the janjaweed, that has committed many of the atrocities in the conflict.

The U.N. Human Rights Council commissioned Monday's report in an emergency session in December. Williams filed the report after concluding in a 20-day attempt to enter Sudan in February that the Sudanese government had no intention of cooperating with the United Nations.

Sudan's government "has manifestly failed to protect the population of Darfur from large-scale international crimes, and has itself orchestrated and participated in these crimes," the report said.

It said rape was widespread across Darfur, but that Sudanese authorities were doing little to prevent it or investigate the crimes.

"Arbitrary arrest and detention in Darfur by government security forces continue," the report said, adding that there had been a wave of arrests of Darfurians in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in recent months.

There also have been curbs on free speech and "credible information on torture, inhumane and degrading treatment by national Security and Military Intelligence during attacks and in the treatment of detainees," the report said.

"War crimes and crimes against humanity continue across the region," it said. "The principal pattern is one of a violent counterinsurgency campaign waged by the government of the Sudan in
concert with janjaweed militia, and targeting mostly civilians. Rebel forces are also guilty of serious abuses of human rights and violations of humanitarian law."

Williams told the Associated Press that some of the rebels should probably be tried alongside Sudanese officials and janjaweed militia members.

"But I think that the overwhelming burden of guilt lies with the government and the militia," she said in a telephone interview.

The Sudanese government delegation at the council meeting declined to comment, saying they would only react to the report when they address the council Tuesday.

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, last month linked Sudan's government to atrocities in Darfur, naming a junior minister as a war crimes suspect who helped recruit, arm and bankroll the janjaweed.

Ahmed Muhammed Harun, the former junior interior minister responsible for the western region of Darfur, and a janjaweed militia leader, Ali Mohammed Ali Abd-al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, are suspected of a total of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

Sudan says it already has set up its own war crimes courts, and does not have to turn over suspects named by the ICC.

The report said anti-government rebels also were to blame for human rights abuses, including rape and torture of civilians. Much of this violence was related to fighting between different rebel groups and an increase in banditry in the largely lawless region, it said.

Although the team was unable to enter Sudan, it held numerous consultations with a wide range of aid agencies working in the region and also was briefed by African Union officials in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the report said.

In Chad, the team also spoke to some members of rebel groups, including the Justice and Equality Movement and the secretariat of the National Redemption Front, and to Darfur refugees.