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:
Thursday, 27 March 2008

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

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Bishop Biguzzi
comforts amputees

By Osman Larry Fofanah

Having initiated the establishment of the Holy Spirit Hospital in Masuba, Makeni, the Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni, His Lordship, George Biguzzi, in partnership with the Don Gnocchi Foundation in Italy, has facilitated the extension of this hospital with the opening of a microsurgery unit for the protection of the hand of the amputee. The microsurgery unit, according to report, was officially inaugurated on Easter Monday, 24th April by His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma.

Reports say the Bishop himself has been carrying out a host of development programmes in the Northern Province, including the improvement of the social and health conditions of the disabled.

continued page 2
Bishop Biguzzzi comforts amputees

From front page

for further studies abroad, among many other things. PC, Bai Shebora Kasanga II identifies him as a humanitarian figure that cares very little about material ownership. As a servant of God, the Bishop in his statement underscored the fact that the priority of a Christian missionary is to feed the poor and heal the sick. This attribute, he said, originally emanated from the Lord Jesus Christ while sending his Disciples to spread the gospel. He thanked the Government of Sierra Leone for giving the mission a duty-free concession after importing first-of-its-kind health care service equipments worth billions of Leones. He informed that South Africa is the only country in the continent that has such equipments, adding that with the right motivation, the current free-of-charge health care service delivery of the Holy Spirit Hospital will continue. He reiterated the need for people to work effectively after disability. “It is within this grave concern, the Bishop noted, “that the Diocese of Makeni, alongside the Don Groechi Foundation, an Italian organization constituting of surgery experts, introduced to Sierra Leone, the surgery and rehabilitation programme for amputees.” Thus, he said, would involve surgery operation of those whose hands, which were chopped at the wrist or carpal, so that prosthesis will be attached and that later, a physical and social rehabilitation of how to use this prosthetic would be done. The distinguished Man of God said the microsurgery unit is open to amputees all over Sierra Leone and extended his appreciation to the Italian foreign ministry for financing the initiative. In his statement, the Acting Medical Director on behalf of staff of the Holy Spirit Hospital, Dr Albert Uchee (a Nigerian), gave a rundown of services provided in the hospital, which said includes an obstetric laboratory, CD4 count machines, radiology department, kidney unitary and female reproductive tract department, machines detecting the sex of a fetus in the womb, functional cardiac machines, state of the art automated physiotherapy from Italy and a plastic surgery department. He said the training of plastic surgeons is now done in Ghana and that all those going through the training successfully would be eventually absorbed in the system and also informed that most medical students offer their internships at the Holy Spirit Hospital.

In his key note remarks, guest speaker of occasion, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma gave his profound gratitude to the Diocese of Makeni and the Bishop in particular, whose initiative, he said, made possible the institution of the Holy Spirit Hospital.

The president said such strides supplement the efforts of the government to effect health-care services in the country and commended the increasing partnership of local NGOs and international agencies like UNICEF in supporting health in the nation.

The president also commended the Italian government for co-financing the initiative. Peace cost of medical service, he observed, would reduce the risk of people giving preference to cheaper drugs, which, in turn, he said, would result into a terrible social infection. This, he emphasized, would also reduce the maternal and child mortality rate in the country. President Koroma also revealed that government is now embarking on sending candidates to study post graduate courses in medical surgery in Ghana. During a conducted tour of the hospital, President Koroma was crowned honorary Chief Surgeon.
The Liberian Police are reported to have seized 30,000 rounds of ammunition, AK-47 and other assorted rifles in the western region of the country, close to the border of Sierra Leone.

A senior Liberian police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told press that part of the ammunition was initially found last Wednesday 19th March 2008 by local people at Sirje, a Liberian town bordering Sierra Leone. He said the police intercepted three conveyances with alleged arms traffickers trying to cross the Marree River.

The successful operation was jointly carried out by the Liberian Police and UN counterparts who received a tip-off of the illegal transaction and on Thursday March 20th 2008 discovered a large cache of ammunition.

According to reports, the arms traffickers were arrested with a big bag that contained the asorted quantities of ammunition. When the people of Sirje tried to interrogate them to know what they were carrying in their bags, they resisted and the ensuing struggle resulted in a fight, leading to the traffickers fleeing and leaving the bags behind. The bags as reported contained 2,061 machine-guns ammunition. When intelligence report was received, an official in the Liberian police disclosed that they searched the surrounding areas on Thursday 20th March 2008 and discovered 28,000 rounds of machine guns.

This has been confirmed by the UN Mission in Liberia and added...
It was 12 years ago. They were the two main rivals. One was the winner, the other loser. Now, there is a shifting of positions—the winner as a prisoner and the other loser, President. A Liberian journalist then covered the 1997 campaign. See page 7.
In Retrospect

Liberia On the Home Stretch

A new African Magazine May 1997

The argument gets nastier, often drowning the conversation of parents. In downtown Monrovia, youths engage themselves in periodic debates from the sidewalk to government offices to taxis. They to transform itself into a democracy after seven years of bloody civil war which has killed an estimated 400,000 and destroyed the physical and economic infrastructure of the country. In the process, most citizens have become a seemingly unavoidable device employed by all presidential aspirants to use to the electorate.

The front presidential race is Charles Taylor, who launched the rebel war in December 1989. He is leading his National Patriotic Party (NPP) against an opposition alliance headed by the upstart Christian George Weah, who is challenging Taylor.

Taylor stands a good chance of winning, but in a country without the tradition of scientific opinion polls, nothing can be sure yet.

Other presidential candidates in the race are Cherokee Johnson Jr. of the Progress Party, former President Samuel Doe, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, independently.

The election is on a referendum to decide whether to adopt a new, proportional representation system in place the current first-past-the-post system.

Liberia's economic situation is critical, with the country facing severe economic challenges. The expected influx of refugees into the country is not happening, making proportional representation an even more critical choice.

"It is what Liberia needs now to put the country back on the map. What others will lose out on, as a result may return to the bush and start another war," said presidential aspirant Cherokee Johnson Jr.

Some partisans are already going into the elections under a cloud. Albert Kromah's All Liberia Coalition Party is still reeling from the corruption that has scarred its central committee and releases for striking a large number of blacks in its base in Monrovia. After the release, Kromah dismissed the arrests. He said it was not a red card blocking his candidacy for the presidency.

In an election in which personalities will play a major role, candidates are to be emblazoned on the ballot. Kromah may yet win a large chunk of the vote. Whether or not he wins, the voting will be a referendum on the presidency.

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"They say I brought the war, so let them give me the chance to rebuild the country. I sincerely want to rebuild what they claim I have destroyed." Killer Taylor recently secured a meeting with the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, to discuss the situation.

A new African Magazine May 1997

"They say I brought the war, so let them give me the chance to rebuild the country. I sincerely want to rebuild what they claim I have destroyed." Killer Taylor recently secured a meeting with the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, to discuss the situation.
Taylor Trial Resumes Monday

The trial of ex-President Charles Taylor will resume next Monday, 31 March, after a week-long break.

The court heard testimony from a witness who described the conditions in the tower of the prison. The prosecution is expected to present more witnesses at the resumption of the trial Monday.
Memorial Service for Chief Hinga Norman

Public Announcement

The Hinga Norman family, the Government of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Civil Society and the Civil Defence Societies of Donsos, GBethis, Hunting, Kamajors, Kapras and Tamaboros, wish to inform all Chiefdom Authorities, Section Chiefs, Town Chiefs, mayors and elders as well as all friends and well-wishers that ceremonies marking the One Year Anniversary for Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, who passed away on 22 February 2007 will take place in Bo, Kakua Chiefdom, Friday 11th April 2008.

A memorial service for the Late Chief will be at the Church of Salvation, Sewa Road, Bo officiated by Primate E. J. Fofana. This will be followed by a Grand Reception at Bo Town Hall hosted by the Resident Minister, Southern Province, Hon. Musa Tarawally.

There will also be a Wake and other festivities in Mongere and Nguaala in the Valunia Chiefdom on Saturday 12th April 2008 and a church service also in Nguaala on Sunday 13th April 2008.

For additional information, please contact Miss Juliet Norman in Freetown at 076-614177 or the Office of the Resident Minister in Bo at 076-700941.
President Koroma personally instructed the Police force to conscript "Leatherboots" into the country's OSD in spite of clearly laid out procedures and conditions and then proceeded to send him and other former AFRC fighters for further training in close protection.

After returning, Leatherboots held a press conference in which he announced that in spite of his history of violence against Sierra Leoneans in not only commanding rebel units but in the infamous assault on Freetown in which 6,000 people were killed within a week and other sundry violent acts like the malicious beating of Rtd Col. Tom Nyuma, Leatherboots told the press conference that he has never and will not victimise fellow Sierra Leoneans but seek their welfare. How? He did not say.

Associated with violent looting and other atrocities, Leatherboots also said he is now going to protect lives and property and that he wanted Sierra Leoneans to repose confidence in him.
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
26 March 2008

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Storm Destroys 70 Houses in Nimba County**

(The Analyst, The News)

- A violent storm has reportedly destroyed 70 houses including a public school in Gbehlay-Geh District, Nimba County.
- Nimba County Representative Martin Farngalo said the storm swept away a school and 69 homes in Zorgowee, Zortapa, Younlay and Kehplay towns in Gbehlay-Geh District.
- The incident which has resulted into internal displacement of more than 1,000 persons, according to Mr. Farngalo, is due to deforestation in the area.

**U.S. Defense Institute Trains 23 Liberians on Maritime Security**

(The News)

- The United States Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in collaboration with the U.S. Navy’s Africa Partnership Station has ended a four-day training seminar on the rule of law in maritime security for the personnel of several government ministries and agencies.
- Speaking Tuesday at the end of the training held at the Mamba Point Hotel in Monrovia, the Commander of the United States Coast Guard Patricia J. Hill said the training focused on international maritime security and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

**UNHCR Tells Ghana to Stop Deportation of Liberians**

(The News)

- The United Nations agency responsible for refugees, UNHCR has issued an account of the plight of Liberian refugees in Ghana and has subsequently called on the Ghanaian government to “stop the deportation of Liberians refugees”.
- In a release circulated on Tuesday, the UNHCR said following the deportation on Sunday of 16 Liberians, 13 of them registered with UNHCR as refugees, the UN Refugee Agency has told the Ghana government to cease any further forcible removals.

**Radio Summary**

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

**Disagreement Erupts At House of Representatives over “Lobby” Fee**

- Quoting Legislative sources, Radio Veritas reports that disagreement has erupted among members of the lower House over the distribution of a little over US$50,000 believed to have come from the Firestone management as “lobby” fee for the passage of the amended concession act.
- The source said the disagreement erupted when the leadership of the House decided to allocate US$500 to other lawmakers while they took a huge portion of the money.
- However in a reaction, the Director of Press at the House of Representative, Isaac Redd dismissed the report as untrue.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

**LCC Pleads for Restraint after Refugees “Manhandling” in Ghana**
• The President of the Liberia Council of Churches, Methodist Bishop, John Innis has made a passionate plea to Liberians not to be resentful of Ghanaians residing in the country.
• Bishop Innis’ appeal comes amidst reports of the alleged manhandling of Liberian refugees by Ghanaians security forces.
• The Bishop appealed to citizens to instead look forward to the mediation efforts initiated by government.

US$150,000 Tug Boat Commission at Port of Monrovia

• A tug boat worth over US$150,000 has been commissioned for use by the Freeport of Liberia.
• Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the Managing Director of National Port Authority, George Tubman said the new pilot boat would enhance efficiency in berthing vessels.
• He said the boat named 27 Challenger Ray Marine was purchased by the entity out of its own resources.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Star Radio (News culled today from website at 8:35 am)

Presidential Convoy Held up in Traffic Jam

• The Presidential motorcade of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was this morning caught up in traffic for nearly fifteen minutes after police seemed unable to clear the road to ensure the required ‘right of way’ passage.
• This is the second time the Presidential motorcade has been caught up in traffic.
• In April last year, a similar situation occurred leaving the President stranded in traffic for about fifteen minutes.
• Observers believed the situation has serious security implication and should be avoided at all time.

Edina Residents Rejects Census Mapping

• Reports from Grand Bassa County say citizens of Edina have refused to participate in the ongoing National Census exercise.
• Correspondents said the citizens are protesting a LISGIS map, which placed them under Buchanan City.
• The Edina citizens maintained they belong to District # 1 and not Buchanan City.

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