

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, April 15, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Subject: Norman Wants Special Court's Judge Winter Sacked Again

14/04/2004 21:50

Norman Wants Special Court's Judge Winter Sacked Again

Concord Times (Freetown)

April 14, 2004
Posted to the web April 14, 2004

Osman Benk Sankoh
Freetown

War crimes indictees, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofana have again filed another motion seeking the barring of Special Court's Acting President, Austrian born Renate Winter.

The motion filed on 24 of March came barely a month after the court's president, Judge Geoffrey Robertson was relieved as President and barred from sitting on cases concerning ex Revolutionary United Front (RUF) indictees.

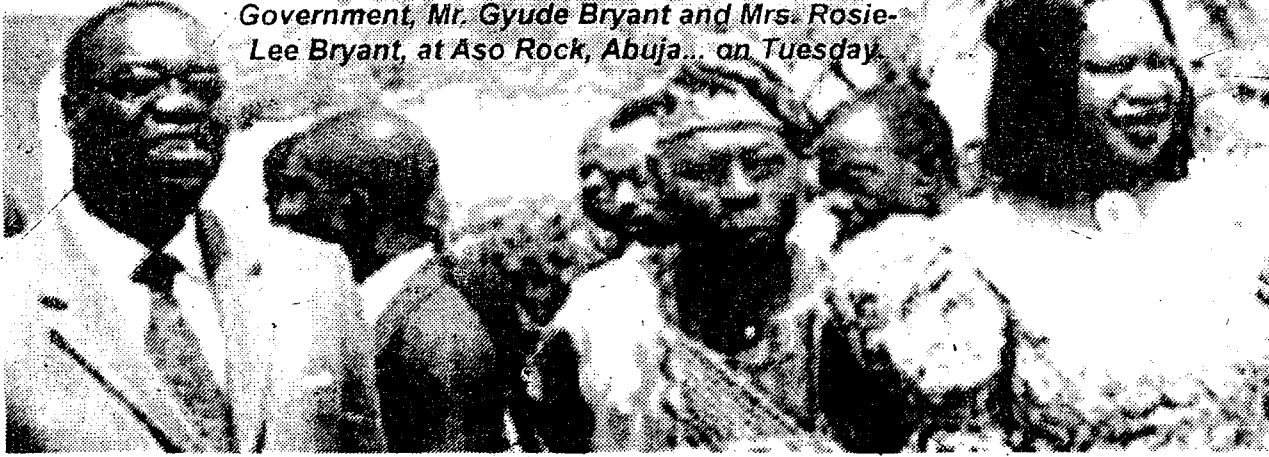
According to the motion, " the Defence became aware of an apparent close connection between Judge Winter and UNICEF, notably, her involvement in a report jointly published by UNICEF and No Peace Without Justice entitled, " International Criminal Justice and Children" published in September 2002." In the said report, " Judge Winter is thanked in the acknowledgements as an "expert who generously reviewed the draft and supported the drafting process." The indictees are concerned with particular references in the report which talk of, "the conscripting or enlisting of children under 15 or using them to participate in hostilities," and further maintained, " is a crime under international law during any armed conflict." The report is also said to have dealt with the Special Court and its powers to prosecute for conscripting or enlisting children.

"It is submitted that the learned Judge has displayed actual bias by prejudging the very issue that she was called upon by the Special Court to determine impartiality," and, " further submitted that, " Judge Winter ought to withdraw from further deliberation in the said preliminary motion on the grounds that she has " a personal interest" and /or " a personal association" by her relationship with UNICEF." Therefore, the Defence request, " Judge Winter should withdraw from any further deliberations in the determination of the preliminary motion on the recruitment of child soldiers and any past contribution must be struck from the consideration of the remaining Appeals Chambers Judges in reaching their decision, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 15(A)." In its response on the said motion filed on the 31 of March, the Prosecution however asked that the motion be rejected while stressing, " it would be as much as a potential threat to the interests of the impartial and fair administration of justice if judges were to disqualify themselves on the basis of unfounded allegations of apparent bias." The Prosecution stressed, " there is no indication in the September 2002 Publication that Judge Winter " approved the draft" of that publication."

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Gyude Bryant urges Taylor to face Special Court

President Olusegun Obasanjo flanked by the Head of the Liberian National Transitional Government, Mr. Gyude Bryant and Mrs. Rosie-Lee Bryant, at Aso Rock, Abuja, on Tuesday.



The Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), Gyude Bryant, has called on exiled Charles Taylor to be honourable and appear

before the United Nations Special War Crime Tribunal sitting in Sierra Leone. Making the call while responding to questions at the end of a lecture at the Institute

of Peace and Conflict Restoration (IPCR) in Abuja, Bryant said: "Well, it's not a question of support or not. If the court invites Mr. Taylor, the most honourable

thing for him to do is to go
Contd. Page 2

From Front Page

there and exonerate himself." On the question of the international confiscation of former president of Liberia's assets, Bryant said: "you know last week or 10 days ago, we had a strike in Monrovia by students and that led to some property damaged and injuries to people in excess of a quarter million dollars. The reason for that is because teachers and other civil servants had not been paid for two years prior to my assumption of office. What happened to that money? The money I'm using to pay is not coming from Mars. We are collecting it and the amount we are collecting now is much smaller than

what we collected before." In his lecture titled: "From Continuous Conflict to Peace and Sustainable Human Development: The Unfolding Liberian Experience", Bryant called on his compatriots to sacrifice a little more of their time and be patient to move their country forward. He also urged them to renounce tribal/ethnic concerns and self-interest that could jeopardise the country's march to peace, stability, democracy and development. He warned that since the current effort at making peace possible in Liberia was a second chance, it should not be blown away. In his words: "this chance is the

second major transition to peace in Liberia. Liberians are expected to honour the social contract and they must strive to defend it. The NTGL remains opposed to all forms of diabolical schemes. We are ready to meet the challenges of the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) and all regional, political and economic integration programmes." In the fifty-page lecture, Bryant listed the achievements and pains of his administration. Some achievements of the administration, he listed, include the centralisation of the collection of government revenues through the Ministry of

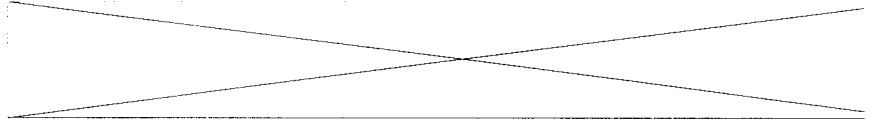
Finance for safekeeping and recording by the Central Bank of Liberia, peace and confidence building as well as commitment to the disarmament process. He stated emphatically that he was totally committed to

handing over power in January 2006 after general elections next year. Besides, he is committed to the resumption of the disarmament process tomorrow (April 15). Thus, he dismissed insinuations

that he might not want to leave when the time comes. Bryant added: "We shall bring peace to the living in Liberia so as to attain our much-needed national and economic revival. We shall empower our people to realise our future needs."

Awoko

Thursday April 15, 2004



Govt Protects Deal On Taylor 'We Will Not Request His Hand Over', Bryant Says

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

April 13, 2004

Posted to the web April 14, 2004

By Sheriff Z. Adams

Monrovia

The head of the Transitional Government of Liberia says his administration will not be a part of any arrangement that would have former President Charles Taylor face trial on charges of crimes against humanity at the UN-backed Court in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Chairman Gyude Bryant said the Transitional Government will not request that Mr. Taylor be turned over for war crimes in Sierra Leone because the former President was flown to Nigeria under a special arrangement by ECOWAS leaders to ensure peace in Liberia.

Chairman Bryant explained that under the arrangement which the Transitional Government is a part, Mr. Taylor was granted amnesty as part of a special peace deal arranged to have him live in Nigeria.

"This Transitional Government will not request for Mr. Taylor to be turned over to the court in Sierra Leone," the Liberian leader stated emphatically.

Addressing a news conference Monday at the Parlors of the Executive Mansion, Chairman Bryant said he will not support calls for Mr. Taylor to be turned over to the war crimes court because, it was part of an ECOWAS arrangement.

But he said that if Mr. Taylor interferes with the internal affairs of the country, he would think otherwise, adding, "I hope Mr. Taylor will try to be a good boy while in Nigeria."

He narrated that President Olesgun Obasanjo of Nigeria had said that his country would only turn Mr. Taylor over to an elected government and not the Transitional Government as is being speculated in Monrovia.

The position of the Transitional Government followed a request by the international community for the Liberian Government to support calls for the former President to be turned over for prosecution at the UN-backed War Crimes Court.

Recently, a petition seeking the endorsement of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) to turn Mr. Taylor over for trial reportedly stalled at the Assembly, allegedly due to procedural errors.

According to reports, the Assembly argued that the petition by two human rights organizations fell short of some unspecified basic requirements to warrant debate by the body.

The Sierra Leone Court has charged Mr. Taylor with seventeen counts, including crimes against humanity, genocide, gunrunning and diamond smuggling and support rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

But the former Liberian President had persistently denied the allegations and requested his accusers to produce evidence.

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **liberia; kofi woods identifies causes of conflicts** ([Edit Search](#))

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World Markets Analysis April 14, 2004

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**World Markets
Research Centre**

World Markets Analysis

April 14, 2004

SECTION: IN BRIEF

LENGTH: 268 words

HEADLINE: Liberian Leader Uses Nigeria Trip to Pressure Exiled Predecessor

BYLINE: Chris Melville

BODY:

At a press conference during his visit to Nigeria yesterday (13 April), the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of **Liberia** (NTGL), Gyude Bryant, called on his predecessor Charles Taylor to hand himself over to the Special Court in Sierra Leone (SCSL), which indicted him last June for his role in Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war (see **Liberia**: 6 June 2003: Indictment, Coup Attempt and Rebel Offensive Push Liberian Regime to Brink of Collapse). Taylor has been living in Nigeria since his negotiated departure from **Liberia** in August last year, and has resisted all attempts to extradite him to the SCSL. Speaking to journalists in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, Bryant yesterday suggested that 'if the court invites Mr Taylor (to face trial), the most honourable thing for him to do is go there and exonerate himself'.

Significance: Although Bryant's statement is one of the clearest indications of his desire to see Taylor prosecuted, it seems unlikely that the NTGL Chairman will pressure the Nigerian government to hand him over to the SCSL in Freetown. The Nigerian administration has repeatedly stressed that unless Taylor **causes** trouble in Nigeria, it will only extradite him if the NTGL decides that the disgraced former president should face trial in his home country. Bryant will not allow this to happen at the present time: with the Liberian peace process still in its early stages, a prosecution of Taylor in his home country is politically unthinkable - as Bryant told journalists on Monday (11 April), Taylor's residence in Nigeria is 'part of this peace process'.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2004

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **liberia; kofi woods identifies causes of conflicts** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 04/09/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, April 15, 2004 - 6:03 AM EDT

Awoko

Thursday April 15, 2004

Between Taylor And Hinga Norman Excesses

With Jim Fumba

The saying of the wise which is often traded in many quarters is that, one must give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what belongs to God. In other words, what is in the realm of God and eternal salvation shall in no way be mingled with worldly issues. They are miles apart; one is seeking this world while the other is in search of the way to eternal happiness.

This dichotomy between what is of the world and that which is of God may as well be compared to the perception of the UN-backed Special Court regarding the indictment and prosecution of former Kamajor Coordinator, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and erstwhile Liberian warlord and ex-president, Charles Taylor. In all fairness it would be a colossal mistake to render the same degree of persecution and humiliation to both Taylor and Norman.

The reasons are crystal clear. Chief Sam Hinga Norman was fighting to defend the government of the day - the SLPP government of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah - during its troubled first mandate. The ex-Liberian warlord on the other hand was fighting to overthrow that government and have it replaced with that of rebels of the RUF led by deceased Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh.

The fact remains that the degree of persecution and humiliation that Chief Hinga Norman is undergoing may easily be compared to that of Charles Taylor. What a showcase of the miscarriage of justice! The prolonged detention and the recent freezing of Hinga Norman's

personal accounts at the Union Trust Bank is an example of partial justice exercised by the UN-backed Special Court.

The Special Court did not even take into consideration that there ought to be a line of demarcation between Hinga Norman's bank account and the one that was meant to serve as operational funds for the Kamajor organisation which Hinga Norman was the main coordinator in those days of uncertainty.

This again is a manifestation that there is an element of grudge that the government is bearing against Chief Norman. That is to say there is a hidden agenda to the freezing of the account which should have been redressed in some other quarters rather than on the theatre of the attempts of the Special Court to build road blocks to impunity by prosecuting those who bear the greatest responsibility for the ten-year civil conflict.

Indeed there are those speculating as to the hidden motives of government against the former Kamajor coordinator. A school of thought which seems to be winning the day is that the government may have had an axe to grind with Hinga Norman for rumours that he may have been behind an orchestrated plot to overthrow the government and forced into exile in Guinea.

A lot of people are not amused by the accusation. For the mere fact that it lacked sufficient proves to warrant a case.

This was an instance when a group of disgruntled coup makers in the Army had succeeded in toppling the government, leading to the forced exile of many government officials. But Chief Hinga Norman remained in this country to settle scores with the new comers who had

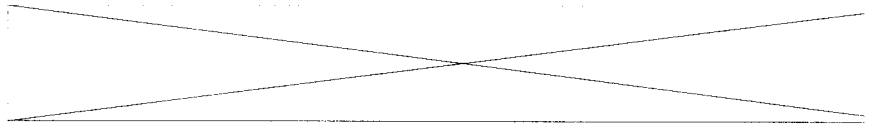
formed a fragile alliance with rebels of the RUF.

The question that emerges then is that, was Chief Hinga Norman, leading the Kamajors with the intention of an eventual seizure of power or was he really leading the anti-rebel battle with a view to securing the presidential seat for His Excellency President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah?

On the other hand, there is every justification for the humiliation and witch-hunt that has been directed to Charles Taylor. He deserves more humiliations than the one that he now endures. He is a fugitive running away from the justice of an internationally constituted and mandated court, the UN-backed Special Court.

In the case of Charles Taylor, everyone holds the view that after the indictment there is a need for him to be rendered to the jurisdiction of the Court, so as to prove his innocence and exonerate himself from all blames which led to the imposition of UN sanctions on his country in the first place over the blood diamonds deal.

The ex-Liberian Chief Executive would have to prove that he was not the "Godfather" and "Papay" behind the RUF which brought so much destruction and displacements in this country. Taylor should have to prove that the RUF was never receiving financial and material support from him and his government to fuel the war in exchange for diamonds acquired by rebels in Sierra Leone through illicit mining in the Kono district and other parts of the country. There is always a difference between the devil and the true angle.



Obasanjo Welcomes Liberia's Interim Leader in Abuja

Vanguard (Lagos)

NEWS

April 14, 2004

Posted to the web April 14, 2004

Abuja

PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday received the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, Mr. Gyude Bryant on his first official visit to Nigeria during which both leaders discussed on the progress achieved so far towards the reconstruction of the war- torn Liberia.

This was the first visit of the Interim Liberian Leader since he became chairman of the Transitional government. His visit would last two days.

Senior Special Assistant to President Olusegun Obasanjo on Media Mrs Oluremi Oyo briefed reporters on the outcome of the meeting between the President and the Liberian Interim leader.

Mrs. Oyo who also explained why the Haitian former leader Aristide was yet to arrive Nigeria after granting him a temporary asylum. She said that during the meeting that lasted for more than 45 minutes.

"Bryant expressed not only his personal gratitude but the gratitude of the people and government of Liberia for the support of President Obasanjo to ensure that the peace process continues and get Liberia back to the democratic plain.

Continuing she said: "He briefed the president on the activities of his government, the arrangement that are being made for the disarmament to begin next week. He expects that after disarmament, the security situation in the country would improve. He briefed the president on the rehabilitation process that is going on for social services, roads, water and schools. He referred particularly to the president's support for donors' conference that was held in New York recently and he described it as a huge success. Bryant said: " the whole world now wants to be friends of Liberia." He talked about some of the law enforcement problems that they still had but he believes that the disarmament process should help to quicken that pace.

He solicited Nigeria's continued support not only for the construction and rehabilitation of social infrastructure, but also the provision of expertise to help in jump starting Liberia's peace process. President Obasanjo she said briefed the visitor on the political and economic situation in the country, especially the just concluded local government elections, which was largely peaceful. He also briefed Bryant on the key sectors of the reform agenda - oil, gas, agriculture and food security, manufacturing, solid mineral, tourism. He pledged Nigeria's assistance in the provision of doctors and science school teachers under the Technical Aid Corps scheme.

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AFRICA

No more war, says Liberian leader

Abuja, Nigeria

14 April 2004 13:17

Gyude Bryant, head of Liberia's transitional government, said on Tuesday in Abuja, Nigeria, that Liberians have resolved "never to go to war again".

Bryant, who arrived on Tuesday for a two-day visit, said that his countrymen are in agreement that there should be no more war if Liberia is to overcome its war-weary past. He said that Liberians have entered into a social covenant to ensure that the country does not experience civil war again.

In a lecture, *From Continuous Conflicts to Peace and Sustainable Human Development: The Unfolding Liberian Experience*, Bryant said that many Liberians are sure that the current transitional experience is Liberia's last chance at peace.

Bryant was named to head the interim government after embattled former president Charles Taylor was eased out as strongman through an arrangement of the Economic Community of West African States, championed by Nigeria.

Taylor currently lives in exile in oil-rich Cross River state in Nigeria.

Bryant said that years of civil war have left Liberia in shambles, with many lives and vast property lost to power struggles between the Taylor regime and Liberian rebels.

He said that for the country to achieve any meaningful progress, there must not be any war or crisis, and that the government must ensure that the process of rehabilitation of displaced people is completed within its two-year interim tenure.

Bryant was chosen last year to head the transitional government that is to stay in place for two years. The transitional government is expected to make arrangements for fresh elections to usher Liberia into fully-fledged democracy.

Before the lecture, Bryant held a closed-door meeting with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to report developments in Liberia since the transitional government took over.

Bryant thanked Nigeria for its contributions in restoring peace to Liberia. He noted that Nigeria had sent peace-keeping troops to Liberia, disarmed rebels and provided exile for Taylor.

Obasanjo told Bryant that Nigeria is committed to ensuring that peace reigns in the entire West African sub-region, the African continent and the world as a whole.

He urged Bryant to ensure that Liberia achieve sustainable democracy and elections within the two-year tenure of the transitional government. -- Sapa-DPA

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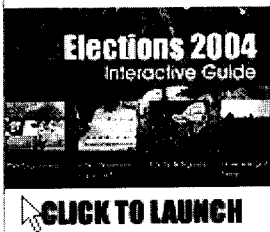
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INTERACTIVE

Elections 2004
Interactive Guide



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Africa News April 14, 2004 Wednesday

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Africa News

April 14, 2004 Wednesday

LENGTH: 323 words

HEADLINE: **Liberia;
Kofi Woods Identifies Causes of Conflict**

BYLINE: The Inquirer

BODY:

The Executive Director of the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) Regional/**Liberia** Program, Mr. Samuel **Kofi** Woods has identified some of the major factors leading to the continuous **conflict** in the country.

Mr. Woods named the factors as the crisis of identities, crisis of atrocities, crisis of penetration, among others. He said people advocate to be in authority, but whenever they are given authority or leadership, they resort to using force based on their authority to penetrate the resources of the country to enrich themselves.

Serving as moderator on the 2nd day of the ongoing 5-day Transitional Training Workshop for Civil Society Leaders organized under the aegis of the Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG), Mr. Woods said the issue of justice is necessary to end impunity in **Liberia**, and the world at large.

The human rights advocate noted that it has become clear that civil society as a whole lacked the requisite basic information and knowledge on various components of the transitional process, stressing that such a gap services as a major stumbling block for civil society organizations (CSOs) in taking leading and active role in the formulation of institutional and legislative aspects of transitional justice in **Liberia**.

Deliberating on the topic: "Comparative Transitional Justice Experience", Mr. Woods admonished participants to use the Sierra Leonean experience as an example to deal with the Liberian situation.

A delegate from Ghana, giving an experience from his country, challenged those involved in the Transitional Justice System to recognize the challenges and difficulties to encounter on their way as they move to the establishment of the Transitional Justice System in **Liberia**.

He noted that for the successful implementation for the successful implementation of any commission that will promote justice, depends on transparency and the promotion of the rules of law.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2004

Source: Agence France-Presse

Date: 14 Apr 2004

Ivory Coast disarmament team ends Sierra Leone visit

FREETOWN, April 14 (AFP) - Experts from war-torn Ivory Coast on Wednesday wrapped up a five-day visit here where they sought to learn lessons from Sierra Leone's successful disarmament campaign.

Delegation leader Lieutenant Colonel Patrice Kouassi, the deputy coordinator of the Ivory Coast disarmament process, said that his team had launched an awareness campaign but was seeking greater insight into how to communicate the importance of disarmament to the public.

Sierra Leone announced in February the completion of its campaign to disarm some 70,000 fighters from a decade-long rebel war that was declared officially over in January 2002.

The campaign in Sierra Leone, which suffered one of the most brutal wars in modern history, was hailed as a great success and considered by the UN Mission in the west African country to be a model for the restive region.

In Ivory Coast in March, rebel opposition to the disarmament timetable set by the national reconciliation government indefinitely postponed the process to disarm as many as 40,000 combatants.

Ivory Coast has since tumbled back into chaos following a massive demonstration to protest President Laurent Gbagbo's failures to implement a peace pact. The demonstrations in the main city Abidjan turned violent, killing as many as 500 people according to opposition leaders.

Kouassi told reporters before leaving Freetown for the main Ivory Coast city Abidjan: "We came in to learn how to move the program forward, essentially on the communication side. We have just learned the process so when we get back we shall see what would be done. I am optimistic we shall succeed."

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Liberian Govt Okays Seizure of Taylor's Assets

From Paul Ibe and Iyefu Adoba in Abuja

Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, (NTGL), Gyude Bryant has lent support to the United Nations decision to confiscate the assets of former President Charles Taylor for use to rebuild the war torn country.

Speaking shortly after delivering a lecture at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja yesterday, Bryant described UN's decision to confiscate Taylor's assets as a move in the right direction that would help Liberia in the process of reconstruction.

"That decision is a decision by the UN Security Council to help rebuild Liberia; so long as the Security Council made that decision, our government supports that decision," said Bryant.

Bryant who also called on Taylor currently on exile in Nigeria to do the honourable thing and appear before the Special War Court Tribunal

over crimes committed during his tenure, said, "if the court invites Mr. Taylor, the most honourable thing for him to do is to go there and exonerate himself."

Bryant in his lecture entitled, "From Continuous Conflict to Peace and Sustainable Human Development," commended Nigeria and Obasanjo on the role they played during the resolution of Liberia's crisis.

Calling on all Liberians to pursue peace so that peace will be sustained, Bryant advised his country men to denounce tribal/ethnic bigotry and corruption that could risk the country's quest for peace, stability, democracy and development.

He enjoined all Liberians to strive for peace, maintaining that, "this is the last chance that should not be allowed to be blown away."

Refuting media reports that he plans to contest the 2005 elections, Bryant reinstated his resolve to hand over power in January 2006 after the conclusion of general elections in 2005.

Bryant's approval of Taylor's trial is in line with the position of some coalition of human rights groups in Nigeria who have been in the vanguard to bring the former warlord to book and have him pay for atrocities he committed during his reign including those to Nigerians.

Also yesterday former Nigeria military leader, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar who was the Chief Mediator during the Liberian crisis adduced reasons for the choice of Bryant as Chairman of that country's National Transitional Government.

Bryant, according to Abdulsalami who represented President Olusegun Obasanjo at the lecture, was a businessman who remained in the country throughout the entire period of 14 years of war, adding that he was nominated by all the opposing factions as a consensus candidate.

Taylor has been on political asylum in Calabar, Nigeria since August 11, 2003 following a deal brokered by African leaders with the backing of the US Government.

Anselm Odinkalu, Programme Director (Africa) of the Open Society Justice Initiative, who confirmed the

move by the civil society groups under the aegis of Nigeria Coalition on International Criminal Court (NCICC) Monday, said the project seeks accountability for crimes Taylor is alleged to have committed in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Odinkalu said that since Taylor is now domiciled in Nigeria and is subject to the country's laws, Nigerians and foreigners resident in the country, who were injured or victimized in the war in Sierra Leone and Liberia would be for the prosecution of the exiled president.

"A refugee such as Mr. Taylor is subject to the regular laws of Nigeria. He is not subject to any extra-protection that other citizens are not subject to," Odinkalu said.

He said that the programme tagged "Charles Taylor Accountability Project," would be pursued on three fronts namely; judicial, legislative and police and prosecutorial actions.

