

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:

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) [i]

Terms: **un sierra leone tribunal to prosecute forced marriage as crime against humanity** ([Edit Search](#))

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Associated Press Worldstream May 10, 2004 Monday

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May 10, 2004 Monday

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HEADLINE: **U.N.-Sierra Leone tribunal to prosecute forced marriage as crime against humanity**

BYLINE: CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY; Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: FREETOWN, **Sierra Leone**

BODY:

For the first time under international law, a **U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone will prosecute forced marriage as a crime against humanity**, officials said Monday.

The Freetown court approved a motion Friday by prosecutors to add the new count to indictments against six defendants who will be tried "in the near future," court spokesman Peter Andersen told The Associated Press.

The phenomenon of **forced marriage** was widespread during a decade of successive wars in **Sierra Leone** that ended in 2002, Andersen said. Women and girls who were **forced** into being combatants' sexual partners were referred to as "bush wives."

"This is something that happened in **Sierra Leone** and was so serious and widespread during the war, that the new count, which reflects what happened to hundreds, if not thousands of women and girls, takes account of that," Andersen said.

Prosecutors decided to add **forced marriage** because it "captures a wider range of offense than the existing counts of sexual slavery and sexual abuse," Andersen said. He said no other international **tribunal** had prosecuted defendants on such a count.

Andersen pointed to long-lasting impacts of the practice, including teenage girls who bore children from the relations.

"Many have had difficulty reintegrating into communities. Their families don't want them back," Andersen said. "It leaves scars on women that will be with them all their lives."

The **Sierra Leone tribunal** was created by an agreement between the **United Nations and**

Sierra Leone to try serious human rights violations since Nov. 30, 1996 - when rebels signed a peace accord with the government that was supposed to end what was then a five-year war.

That peace deal was followed by a military coup and several more years of fighting that ended in 2002.

During the war, rebels of the Revolutionary United Front became notorious for their brutality, killing and raping thousands of civilians and cutting off the limbs of thousands more.

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Mandatory Terms: **date from 05/05/2004**

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Concord Times

Tuesday May 11, 2004

At Special Court

AFRC/ RUF charged with Forced Marriage

The Trial Chamber of the Special Court has approved another count of forced marriage on six former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and Revolutionary United Front (RUF) indictees.

According to a Special Court Press Release issued last week, the new count, "now becomes count eight in the 18-count indictment."

This is the first time that forced marriage will be prosecuted as a crime

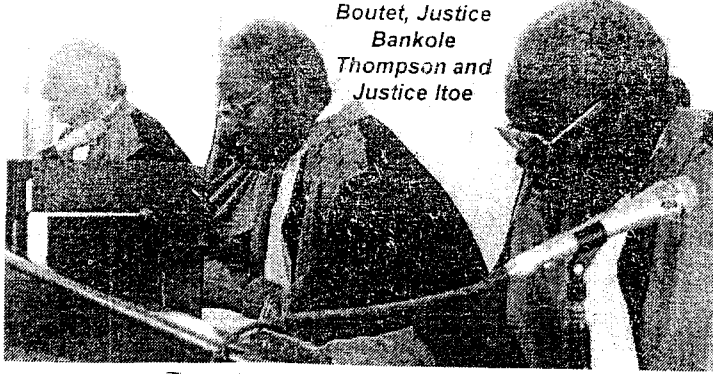
against humanity under international law.

"The Prosecution Motions were upheld in two decisions by a 2 to 1 majority, comprising Judge Benjamin Mutanga Itoe and Judge Pierre Boutet. The majority found that since the motions were brought at a stage of the proceedings prior to trial, the new charge would not prejudice the rights of the accused. The judges ruled that the new counts were based on the

as new charges for AFRC /RUF approved...

Justice Bankole Thompson objects

By Samuel John
Sierra Leonean-born Presiding Judge of the Special Court Trial Chamber, Justice Bankole Thompson has dissented from the decision of his colleagues for additional charges against both the RUF/AFRC detainees. In his judgement, he maintained, "the new charges were prejudicial to the rights



L-R: Justice Boutet, Justice Bankole Thompson and Justice Itoe

of the accused for a fair and speedy trial." He further pointed out. "I also dissent from my learned colleagues' decision for these

additional reason. Firstly, that of the protected interval of eight months between the prosecutor's discovery of the evidence alleged to be in
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From Front Page
support of the proposed new count 8 of Other Inhumane Acts (forced marriage) and the filling of the motion for amendment." He further stated, "the longer the interval between arraignment and amendment, the more likely it is that injustice will be caused and in every case in which amendment is sought, it is essential to consider with great care whether the accused

persons will be prejudiced thereby." He further gave reason that in granting the amendment, it is very likely to occasion undue delay in giving effect to the right of the accused persons, which concept is always a key function of the efficaciousness or otherwise of the right of the accused to a fair and expeditious trial. Two other Judges of the Trial Chamber Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe and Justice Pierre Boutet

approved a motion by the Prosecutors to add the new count of 'forced marriage' to the indictments against six defendants alleged to have been leaders of the former AFRC/RUF. The new allegation brought in the category of 'sexual violence' now becomes Count eight in the 18-count indictment. The new approval by the Trial Chamber marks the first time that forced marriages will be prosecuted as a

crime against humanity under International Law. Bu: Justice Itoe and Boutet are of the opinion that since the Prosecution motion

were brought at a stage of the proceedings prior to the trial; the new charges would not prejudice the rights of the accused. Both further indicated that the

new counts were based on the same evidence as other existing charges related to gender crimes and so would not give undue advantage to the Prosecution.

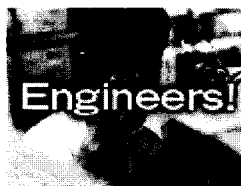
Awoko

Tuesday May 11, 2004



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Freeze assets of ex-Liberia president, banks told

THE Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has issued regulations to banks in Singapore to freeze the assets, if any, of the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, who went into exile in Nigeria last year.

The new regulations, which came into force last Friday and apply to all financial institutions, are in line with the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1532.

The council adopted the resolution on March 12 this year and noted that the actions and policies of Mr Taylor led to the depletion and removal of Liberian funds and resources from the country. It also said there is a need for the international community to ensure the return of such misappropriated funds and assets that have been transferred abroad from Liberia in West Africa.

As such, the UN council said all the financial assets owned or controlled by Charles Taylor and his immediate family members, in particular Jewell Howard Taylor and Charles Taylor Junior, should be frozen without delay.

In its regulations, the MAS said any financial institution that is in possession of any funds, financial assets or economic resources owned or controlled by the Taylors shall freeze these assets. Furthermore, any institution with such funds or which has information about transactions relating to these is required to immediately inform MAS.

Mr Taylor came to power in 1989 after launching a revolt against Liberia's previous dictator Samuel Doe. He was indicted last year by a UN-backed war crimes court for crimes against humanity for his support of rebels fighting a bloody civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone. He now lives in exile in



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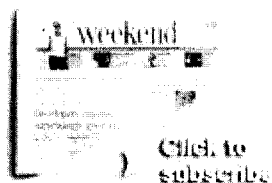
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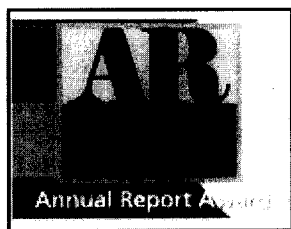


Nigeria which refuses to extradite him for trial before a UN tribunal.



In 2001, a UN report had linked a Singapore-registered company to weapons smuggling in Liberia. Singapore-registered Borneo Jaya Pte Ltd was identified in a Panel of Experts report to the UN Security Council as violating a 1992 arms embargo on Liberia by making a US\$500,000 payment in August 1999 to an arms trafficking company for a weapons delivery to Liberia.

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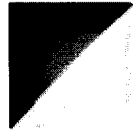
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THE LEON H. SULLIVAN
SUMMIT DINNER



Moving Towards Abolition of the Death Penalty

Amnesty International

PRESS RELEASE

May 10, 2004

Posted to the web May 10, 2004

As government officials and civil society representatives meet in Entebbe, Uganda, on 10 and 11 May to discuss the death penalty in Commonwealth African countries, Amnesty International welcomes positive action across Africa to abolish capital punishment. About half of the countries in Africa no longer execute convicted prisoners.

In 1990, only Cape Verde had no provision for capital punishment in its legislation. By 2002, 10 countries in Africa had de jure abolished the death penalty, while 10 others had de facto abolished it.

Over the past 10 years the number of countries of the Economic Community of West African States and Mauritania that have legally abolished the death penalty or have not carried out executions has risen from one to 10. Only Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone have carried out executions in the last decade.

In Nigeria the last person to be executed was hanged on 3 January 2001, as far as Amnesty International is aware. President Olusegun Obasanjo has repeatedly declared his opposition to the death penalty and in November 2003 initiated the National Study Group on the Death Penalty with a mandate to conduct a national debate on the issue and to make recommendations to the Federal Government by June 2004. Amnesty International is urging the National Study Group on the Death Penalty to recommend a complete abolition of the death penalty for all crimes.

Since 1990 five countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - - Angola, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa - - have abolished capital punishment. Other SADC countries have made positive progress. In Malawi, although the death penalty is still on the statute books, there have been no executions since 1992 and President Muluzi has made a personal commitment not to sign execution orders while in office. He has repeatedly commuted death sentences. President Mwanawasa of Zambia has made a similar commitment not to sign execution orders, and has commuted 60 death sentences so far this year.

No executions have been carried out in Kenya since the mid 1980s and in 2003 President Kibaki commuted 195 death sentences.

"There is a clear trend worldwide and across Africa towards abolition of the death penalty. Worldwide, an average of three countries a year abolishes capital punishment," Amnesty International said.

Some 20 countries in Africa have so far ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. National legislation in those countries should be consistent with the Rome Statute, which states that the maximum penalty that the Court can impose is life imprisonment. It is inappropriate for national courts to impose a more severe penalty than that chosen by the international community for acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international law.

Equally, the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone established by the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government to try those bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international law during Sierra Leone's internal armed conflict, provides a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, whereas those convicted before national courts of offences which may be less grave could face execution. This serious discrepancy must be removed by abolition of death penalty in national law.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all circumstances. It is a violation of the right to life and is the ultimate cruel, degrading and inhumane punishment. The death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments.

"All African countries that have not yet abolished the death penalty should establish a moratorium with immediate effect in line with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolution on the death penalty adopted at the 26th Ordinary Session in November 1999 in Kigali, Rwanda, with a view to moving towards complete abolition," Amnesty International urged.



From Inside LURD Meeting: Sekou Conneh Defeated for Finance Post, Soko Sackor Tipped

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

May 10, 2004

Posted to the web May 10, 2004

By Bill K. Jarkloh
Monrovia

At the end of a 12-hour meeting of the Executive Committee of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the group's Chairman Sekou Damante Conneh's desire for the Minister of Finance post to replace incumbent Lusinee Kamara was defeated by the LURD National Executive Committee (NEC).

Insiders at the Wednesday, May 5th meeting told The NEWS that the meeting was intended to trash out burning issues confronting the unanimity on decisions by the NEC.

The meeting was also, our sources said, intended to unite the former rebel Movement relative to the group's participation in the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) and the pending International Contact Group of Liberia (ICGL) meeting scheduled for London this week.

Key issues discussed at the meeting highlighted the controversial replacement of Lusinee Kamara as Minister of Finance on LURD's ticket and the selection of a delegation to London for the ICGL meeting.

Insiders told The NEWS that Sekou Conneh, who chaired the meeting, was defeated on two fronts - one front concerns his self-nomination to be a member of the LURD delegation to the ICGL meeting, and the other being his self-nomination for the Finance Minister Post.

"Sekou Conneh nominated himself to lead the LURD delegation to London. But he was defeated," a LURD Executive said. The LURD Executive who prefers anonymity said National Port Authority Managing Director Chayee Doe, Deputy Defense Minister Joe Wylie and Customs Commissioner Charles Bennie were selected to represent the LURD in London.

Regarding the Finance Minister's replacement issue, Chairman Conneh, according to some NEC members, put himself forward to fill the position. But our sources said his self-nomination was rejected as "an NEC resolution of February 25, 2004, replacing Minister Kamara with Cabinet Director Soko V. Sackor was reconfirmed at the meeting," an NEC member hinted The NEWS.

"It was said that the 27-member NEC resolution of February 25, 2004 was supportive of a previous resolution signed in Conakry. The position on the withdrawal of the Finance Minister and have him replaced with Soko Sackor was first signed in Conakry by the LURD NEC. It was however said that "game-playing" surfaced at the time the decision should have been implemented, prompting the meeting of Wednesday

"There was no sleeping. That meeting was tough because NEC believed that all of the issues that Chairman Conneh continued to dodge were to be resolved," one of our sources noted. In fact, our sources said the LURD Executive killed a goat and drank soup, because none of them was allowed to leave George Dweh" residence where the meeting was held.

Meanwhile, sources said Chairman Conneh has left Liberia on his own to attend the ICGL meeting, but it is not know whether he will be admitted by that body in the absence of the inclusion of his name on the LURD delegation.

I Will Resign If

Army Boss Vows

The Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Major General Sam Mboma has said in Freetown that he will resign as head of the army, if he sees that there is real enmity existing between his men and members of the Sierra Leone Police. Speaking to *The New Storm* last week, General Mboma said the relationship between the police and the army is



cordial even though they have different roles to play. "We don't have any strains between us. No problems between us. Any country

where these forces are not united is not a country. If I really know that there is enmity between the two, I will resign, because I will not lead my men in such a way," General Mboma said in a rather confident mood.

The Chief of Defence Staff maintained that the incident, which took place on Easter day between the po-

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lice and the military, was an isolated incident which they are not happy about; and that a joint investigation into the circumstances that led to that incident is on-going. The army boss was quick to state that it was the junior ranks that are causing the problem after enjoying themselves. "I was in Senegal in a conference when I heard

about this incident. Immediately I came, I held talks with the Inspector General of Police Brima Acha Kamara on the issue. Both of us were very concerned, we have instituted an enquiry to know the problem," the CDS opined.

He mentioned that he was ready to discipline anybody who falls short of the law. On the issue

of the soldiers who abandon their areas of assignment, the Chief of Defence Staff said he would not condone such a practice. He stressed that most of them don't want to work but want to receive salaries at the end of the month, which his administration will not tolerate.

On his plans for the Sierra Leone Army, Gen-

eral Mboma said he wants his army to become the best-trained and equipped force in the sub region. He said he wants the army to be accountable and transparent to the democratic government and that at the withdrawal of Unamsil they will be in a position to take care of the security of the country.

New Storm

Tuesday May 11, 2004