

**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:**

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Ibrahim Tommy  
Ext 7248  
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

# CDF INDICTEES BOYCOTT SPECIAL COURT

By James B. Sawyerr

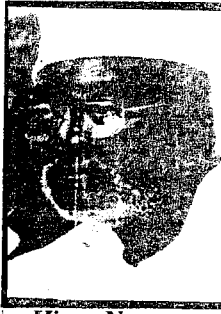
The United Nations hybrid Special Court sessions, set up to try excesses of human rights abuses and heinous crimes against humanity during the ten-year-old rebel war in the country resumed trials on Monday with indicted former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces, Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Aliou Koudowa, refusing to attend the trials.

Presiding Judge, Benjamin Itoe, had no alternative but applied ruled 60 of the Special Court Procedure Act



**David Crane,**  
Special Court Prosecutor

which empowers the court to proceed and try the inductees in their absence, especially in such a grave



**Hinga Norman,**  
CDF inductee

situation whereby the inductees have deliberately refused to appear in court.

*Cont. back page*

From page 1

Eventhough the two public galleries, equipped with modern air cooling systems and close circuit television screens, relaying the deliberations of the court, yet still, members of the public are not showing much interest in the activities of the court.

Testifying on Monday, a female witness revealed that when Kamajors succeeded in repulsing the military junta forces from Kenema in the Eastern Region, they burnt several houses, shot and macheted innocent civilians accused of being junta collaborators.

Led in evidence by Senior Prosecutor, Shuster, the witness further recalled a certain Monday morning when she and other members of her family were awoken by heavy gunshots fired by Kamajor fighters chanting war songs, vowing to wage

## CDF INDICTEES

war and topple the military junta regime.

"My entire family immediately evacuated Kenema Town for the safe haven of Blama Town where we encountered Kamajor Fighers arranging Sierra Leoneans in queues, according to their tribes. Creoles, Mendes, Limbas, Temnes, Lokos were all arranged in separate queues while Temnes were declared by the Kamajors as descendants of the late RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh".

She further narrated that when one Temne tribesman attempted to evade speaking his local dialect, he was beheaded with a machete and the head with a cigarette in the mouth displayed in the open, a development that frightened her which compelled her to escape to

Serabu and that on her return to Kenema later, she beheld the unbelievable spectacle of corpses scattered on the main road in the Kenema township.

The witness disclosed that one of the two boys, aged 22, was shot and thrown into a blazing house while the other boy, aged 20, was macheted to death and was later cremated after petrol was poured on him and set ablaze. Cross examining the witness, Defense Lawyer, Hull, requested the names of the two boys allegedly killed by the Kamajors to which Senior Special Court Prosecutor, Shuster, objected on the grounds that the identity and safety of the witnesses may be jeopardised which Judge Itoe accepted.

The Court was adjourned to yesterday.

New Citizen

Wednesday Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 2004

# Witness admits lying on

## Special Court official

The alleged victim of sexual assault by the Commander of Prosecutions at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Peter Hollaran, shocked the lead state Counsel, Robin Mason, when she state categorically in open court that Mandi Cordwell, the prosecutions first witness and a colleague of Hollaran's, care-

fully conspired with her to fabricate a lie to get Peter Hollaran into deep trouble. Before Kadie Kabia took the witness box, the Judge ruled on the pending motion before him that the purporting statement of Kadie that was recorded by the police investigator, J.S Vandi, was inadmissible in the circumstances that the

maker was available and was best and proper that she told her own story to the court. Defense Counsel, Browne Mark, cross examined the police witness and asked him whether the medical report form he issued was returned back to him. He replied 'yes.' The police witness also admitted that he was told by the third accused that

who are favoured by the big guns. Accusing fingers have been pointed at a particular old man who has been branded as a "canker worm" in the party that would stop at nothing to satisfy his selfish aims and aspirations. "But if he is in the SLPP to sink it, he will sink with it, not with us", a Kailahun party activist says supporting the assertion of Lamin Ngobeh.

Contd page 6

## Special Court official

they had a family meeting with Kadie at which she denied having any sexual relations with Hollaran.

Before Robin Mason started his examination in chief, he requested the services of an interpreter. He the asked Kadie to stay calm and not to be afraid of anything, and then put questions to her systematically. After giving her names and address, prosecuting counsel asked the witness if she is attending school. "No," Kadie replied.

"Were you going to school before?" "I used to go to Sierra Leone Muslim Brotherhood at Oldfield Street up to the time I took my NPSE exams in May this year," she continued. After stating that she recognized all the ac-

### From front page

cused persons, she was then asked to explain how she knew each one of them. Starting with Peter Hollaran, Kadie explained that she got to know him through his brother, Sheka, the 2<sup>nd</sup> accused, when Sheka told her that Hollaran was looking out for a house maid to take care of his son who is dumb. After school sometime in May, Kadie stated that she went to Hollaran's place at Lumley together with Sheka. Sheka was working for Hollaran as a housekeeper. At the house, the witness said that Sheka took her around to look at the facilities in the house, including the rooms, parlor and kitchen. When we got up there, there was an empty room with a bed in it, and Sheka told me that I would be sleeping in there with Hollaran's wife,' Kadie explained. She also stated that she

assisted her brother ( Sheka) in washing cups and plates downstairs. " In spent the night alone, in the empty bedroom I mentioned that was upstairs. I slept there alone again the following day. I slept there for two days in the same room on the same bed. The following day Mandi came. I only know her as Mandi. Mandi asked Sheka if I was his sister and that she wanted to be my friend and have a private word with me. Mandi told me that I should feel free as the room in which I slept belonged to her. Mandi asked me where I slept, and I told her I slept in the empty room. Mandi then asked me whether Mr. Hollaran went there to sleep with me, and I said no. Mandi then said that she would do something for me. Mandi said she would give me money, a car and house if I cooperated with her. Mandi then asked for my clothes, and I told her that they were in the parlor. Mandi then said that I should follow her to buy clothes for me. Mandi then asked my brother if she could take me to town. We went together to a two-storied building with a black lady. I don't know her name, We then went into a room and Mandi asked me to explain to the lady that Mr. Hollaran had sex with and played with my breast. I refused; but both Mandi and the black lady forced me to lie that Hollaran had sexual relations with me."

The Exclusive  
Wednesday  
Sept. 29, 2004

# "Halloran Did Not Rape Me"

*By Solomon Yarjoh*

The girl alleged to have been raped by Australian Special Court Justice Peter Halloran stated Tuesday when she said she was never sexually assaulted as claimed.

Speaking from the witness box, the 13-year-old implicated Special Court Investigator Mandy Cordwell, also an Australian, as having plans to land Halloran in trouble.

The girl, a star witness in the alleged sexual assault case said she accused Halloran neither slept with her nor did he ever touch her.

She further disclosed to the court how Cordwell took her privately to a

house and fed her with words to lie on Halloran.

"She promised to give me money, buy me a car and build a house for my family if I answered that Peter

raped me and played with my breasts," she told Justice Ademosu Tuesday.

The witness further said Mandy told her not to tell anybody about the diabolical plans. She

## *-Star Witness*

said she was prevailed upon by another Sierra Leonean Police to give false statement against Halloran.

"Don't you want wealth

for your family," the police was alleged to have asked the witness. She said she lied on Halloran that he sexually abused her.

*The News*

*Wednesday Sept 29 2004*

[http://www.dailynewsinquirer.net/front\\_page](http://www.dailynewsinquirer.net/front_page)

HALLORAN'S SEX STORY GETS WEIRD BY THE MINUTE :IS SOMEBODY TRYING TO DO IN THIS AUSTRALIAN POLICE CHIEF ?

Though the matter is still subjudice, we can comment on the inconsistencies that have manifested themselves so far in the Carnal Knowledge case preferred against the Special Court Special Investigator, Mr. Peter Halloran since the trial started. Did somebody tamper with the evidence or is there not sufficient evidence to make a strong case against the accused ? Or was this incident a concocted story , after all ?

COCORIOKO was the first Sierra Leonean newspaper to break this story. It was a spectacular scoop for this newspaper as the source who provided the story stressed that no other newspaper or journalist had got wind of the story. And when we came out with the story, even a Special Court official could not help but applaud us for our exclusive. However, it is now becoming obvious that the former Australian Police Chief may go free, if he is given a fair trial.

First of all, the evidence against Halloran is circumstantial. There is no direct evidence linking the man with the alleged act. All we have heard so far is circumstantial evidence---The revelations of Halloran's colleague at the Special Court and flat-mate ! ! ! ! The fact that there are no medical or DNA test results to confirm that Halloran actually had sex with the young child involved in the case is something that must be considered by those who investigated the case.

The elements of rape and carnal knowledge are similar. There must be evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a sexual act did take place. There must have been a penetration or if not, a lascivious act of a sexual nature that fits the charge of carnal knowledge. . There is so far no such direct evidence to prove that the acts alleged did occur. The Prosecution's case is built on hearsay evidence that Halloran's flatmate said that the girl told her that Halloran had carnal knowledge of her.

Why was the child not taken for medical examination or DNA tests conducted on her to ascertain beyond a reasonable doubt that she had either been penetrated or violated ? Were any body fluids found in the girl that had the same DNA composition as Halloran's ? Why are there no incriminating evidence , as usually accompany compact sexual crimes ? Or did our Police fail to prise all these valuable evidence ? If the Police really wanted all these evidence, they could have got them because the time lapse between the night that the alleged sexual acts were said to have been committed and the morning when the girl allegedly complained to Halloran's flatmate was very short. Or did the Police fail to get all these evidence because there were none ?

Why is the child now denying in court that she told Halloran's flat mate that she and Halloran engaged in an intimate act ? Why is the girl now confessing that she was promised a car and a plane ticket by the woman ? According to reports, the Special Court investigated this story and found that there was no merit to the case. Did our Police avail themselves with the facts from this internal investigation ?

Why is the Police so vigorously and overzealously pursuing this case ? Are sex acts between adults and minors not a common occurrence in a country where child brides are as common as "funkia mina " ? I can see with the Police where they are holding Halloran to higher standards. As an investigator who came into the country to help unearth the very crimes of child sexual abuse , sexual slavery and other non-sexual atrocities, he should have been the last man to engage in an alleged sexual act with a child. But is there evidence of a probative value to prove that Halloran really committed the alleged crime ?

One can also understand where the Police and the court are pressing charges because Halloran abused his power. But what evidence exists to back such high-minded ideals ? Also, the bail imposed on the Australian national was too exorbitant and ridiculous What explanation exists for this ? Did not the British and American Embassies attempt to stand in surety that they will ensure that if granted bail, Halloran will remain in Sierra Leone and will not flee ? Was not his passport impounded by the Police ? Why did the

Presiding Judge persistently deny him bail at first ?

Sierra Leone must be careful that we do not make a mockery of ourselves to the International Community. According to the Law of Criminal Procedure, always, always there must be evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a given individual committed an act for which he is standing trial. The mens rea and actus reus must cohere . Where the evidence has no probative value or has been compromised or elements of doubts exist about their reliability and authenticity, or there is a lack of actus reus, the accused is given the benefit of the doubt and the charges against him are immediately dismissed.

Is anybody investigating why Halloran's female flatmate is so intent on incriminating him and sending him to jail ? We hold no briefs for Mr.Halloran. But as an independent paper , one of whose goals is to promote fairness and transparent justice, we hope the authorities in Sierra Leone know what they are doing. We think that this case is fishy and the accused should be given the benefits of the doubt, in the face of all the inconsistencies and legal contradictions, to avoid further tanning our already battered image as a country where transparent justice is a mirage.



## Halloran defence says sex claim a smear campaign

By Gavin Simpson

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ian Munro

September 29, 2004

The defence in the Sierra Leone sex abuse trial of former homicide chief Peter Halloran has accused a principal witness of trying to smear Halloran's name by contacting Victoria Police corruption investigators.

Former Tasmanian detective Mandy Cordwell, like Halloran an investigator with the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone, told the country's High Court that she was warned by her superiors to stop publicising the Halloran case. During cross-examination last week, Ms Cordwell said she had reported the arrest of Halloran to Inspector Peter De Santo, a senior officer with the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Department.

Ms Cordwell alleges she saw a 13-year-old girl eating a meal in Halloran's room, and saw her making his bed the next morning. Ms Cordwell rejected a suggestion that she told Stephen Fontana, Victoria Police's acting assistant commissioner for the Ethical Standards Department, about the matter to blacken Halloran's image.

### More news

- [The king is dead in chocolate land](#)
- [Prisoner guilty over pistol](#)
- [Barmah's wetland laps up a welcome flood](#)

[Home](#) > [National](#) > [Article](#)

Copyright © 2004. The Age Company Ltd.



**ABC Online**

## **Girl denies allegations in Sierra Leone sexual abuse case. 29/09/2004. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200409/s1209208.htm>]

**Last Update:** Wednesday, September 29, 2004. 8:06am (AEST)

# **Girl denies allegations in Sierra Leone sexual abuse case**

By Africa correspondent Sally Sara

A teenage girl has dismissed allegations that she was sexually abused by an Australian police officer in Sierra Leone.

The girl denied that she was sexually abused by former Victorian Police Superintendent Peter Halloran.

The 13-year-old told the Sierra Leone High Court that fellow witness, Mr Halloran's Australian colleague and housemate Mandy Cordwell, encouraged her to tell police that she was having an affair with Mr Halloran.

She says she never slept with the former homicide chief.

Peter Halloran has rejected the charges against him.

The 56-year-old was working as a war crimes investigator with the United Nations backed special court for Sierra Leone.

An internal investigation found there was not enough evidence to support the allegations against him.

© 2004 Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Copyright information: <http://abc.net.au/common/copyrigh.htm>  
Privacy information: <http://abc.net.au/privacy.htm>



# Peter Halloran's Witness Indicts Two

By Bellewa Bakarr

Kadie, the 13-year-old principal witness in the sexual assault case against Australian-born Special Court Investigator, Peter Halloran, and two others versus the

State, yesterday made a statement at the High Court No 1 presided by Hon. Justice Samuel Ademosu, indicting both Mrs. Mandi Cordwell of the Special Court and Detective Woman Sergeant

4543 Janet Tommy, who are prosecution witnesses 1 and 2 respectively. Led in evidence by prosecution state counsel, O.V. Robin Mason, Kadie identified all

Contd. page 2

## Peter Halloran's Witness Indicts Two

From front page

three accused in the dock. The principal witness said she came to know the first accused Peter Halloran through her brother, the second accused Sheka Fofanah and the third accused Abdulai Fofanah, who she described as her uncle.

Testifying, Kadie said sometime in May this year, after she had sat to the NPSE examination, the second accused told her about the first accused, who the second accused said needed a nanny.

My brother, Sheka Fofanah, asked me to visit him at his house at Hamilton Lane the following day from where we left for Peter Halloran's residence at Wilberforce, Kadie testified.

Kadie further explained that at Peter's residence, her brother took her on a familiarisation tour of the house, including all the bed rooms and dining room, adding that her brother showed her one of the rooms where she

slept for two consecutive nights.

Kadie testified that it was on the morning of the second night that Mrs. Mandi Cordwell approached her and told her that she wanted to befriend her and she willingly acknowledged the relationship in the presence of her brother, Sheka Fofanah.

The principal witness said Mandi later requested her brother to allow her to meet with her privately for discussion.

Kadie explained that during their private discussion Mandi promised her that she would buy her a car, a house and offer her plenty of money if she (Kadie) would do something for her.

The principal witness also explained that Mandi asked her to know how long she had stayed at Peter's house, where she used to sleep and whether Peter had cupped her breast.

Kadie said that after their private discussion, Mandi told her to return to her brother and not to disclose to anybody what they had discussed.

Kadie said few minutes later, Mandi came for the second time and asked Sheka for her to escort her for shopping,

adding that the Special Court official took her to a two-storey building at Sea View, where she met a black-complexioned woman.

At Sea View, Kadie said Mandi asked her to answer in the affirmative to the questions she had asked earlier at Peter's residence, and that she should admit that Peter sexually abused her and promised to make her rich when she attempted to refuse.

Kadie explained that the black-complexioned woman in turn asked her if she did not want to become rich, to which she answered in the affirmative, adding that she agreed to explain to the woman what Mandi had told her earlier. However, when the prosecution state counsel, O.V. Robin Mason, put it to Kadie that she made a statement to the police headquarters at George Street, Freetown, one month after she met with Mandi, the principal witness replied in the affirmative.

The matter comes up again this morning.

THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 8 Sept. 29 2007

## Special Court...

# Child abuse case takes new turn

*BY THEOPHILUS S. GBENDA*

The case of Special Court investigator, Peter Halloran, charged with having sex with a teenage girl has taken a new twist in the High Court, as the alleged abused teenage girl, Kadie Kabia has denied ever being tampered with by the accused.

Giving her much awaited testimony in court, the 13 year old girl, Kadi Kabia recalled that in May this year, her elder brother, Shaka, who happens to be working for Halloran, approached her at her residence and informed her that his boss (Halloran) was in need of a girl who'll be working along side Halloran's wife in the country.

Her brother, Kadie said, convinced her to visit his boss's house at Lumley, so as to be introduced to his boss.

Upon arrival at the Lumley residence of Halloran, the girl explained that her brother took her around the house and showed her an empty room where she would be sleeping.

She slept in the said room for two days (Monday and Tuesday) and on the third day, which was on Wednesday, she was busy helping her brother wash the cups when suddenly madam Mandy Coldwell came by and initiated conversation with.

During the conversation, Mandy

*CONTINUED PAGE 2*

## Child abuse case takes new turn

*FROM PAGE 1*

took her to her room and asked her to feel free at anytime to visit.

Whilst there, Kadie continued, Mandy started asking her were she had been sleeping all this while since she entered the house and whether Halloran had been visiting her at night.

Her answers to those questions were that she has been sleeping in a room showed to her by her brother and that Halloran had never visited her at any one time, the girl said.

Mandy, the girl further said, swayed her into a plot of claiming that Halloran has been sleeping and having sex with her.

Mandy, the girl testified, even promised purchasing her a house and a vehicle and later take her to her country overseas, if only she complies.

Noticing that all what the teenage girl is saying in court is in contrast to what she originally told the police in

The girl identified it as her statement and confirmed that it bears her signature.

But when asked whether she would like to tender in evidence the statement, the girl became jittery and after some time motioned that she would not like it tendered.

It was at this juncture that Robin Mason became suspicious and remarked that it appears that the witness is being hostile, and went further to apply that the girl be treated according to the authority of Alfred J. Thompson and the crown.

If at all this application would be granted, with the girl considered as a hostile witness, she may be detained for further probing.

Meanwhile, the prosecution has started crying foul, arguing that they were opposed to Halloran being granted bail for fear that he may tamper with the witness, as it now

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

Terms: **difficult choice...discussed by the council-conflict in liberia, democratic republic of congo...** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



*Business Day (South Africa) September 28, 2004*

Copyright 2004 Times Media Limited  
Business Day (South Africa)

September 28, 2004

**SECTION:** Opinion & Editorial; Pg. 10

**LENGTH:** 633 words

**HEADLINE:** **Difficult** choice

**BODY:**

**Difficult** choice

AFRICA's push for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council has once again highlighted the need to reform the UN executive organ.

African countries - as well as other developing nations from Asia and America - have for the past decade called for better representivity in the council.

As it stands, the security council is a relic of the Cold War era and its decisions, or resolutions, when members are able to agree, are usually taken in the interests of its permanent members - China, France, Russia, the UK and the US - victors in the last world war.

Ten other nonpermanent members are elected on a rotational basis for a two-year period.

The difference between the two groups of members is that members of the latter do not have any power to veto decisions of the council and are thus little more than spectators during the council's deliberations.

Having a permanent seat on the UN Security Council would allow Africa to contribute more effectively to the evolution of world affairs by participating in the formation of - or vetoing - resolutions that affect the world, including its developing nations.

The "African complexion" of some of the matters discussed by the **council - conflicts in Liberia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire or Western Sahara** - call also for African countries to be given a direct say in the council's affairs.

So it is perhaps not surprising that Egypt, Nigeria and SA have expressed their readiness to "serve the people of Africa and the people of the world in the security council" if called upon to do so.

Well, they would, wouldn't they? The problem is that it is early days. So early, in fact, that the foreign affairs department yesterday said it regretted the subject had even been raised in public now. The restructuring of the UN Security Council has been on the cards for ages and, given what the five permanent members would be giving up, the matter is unlikely to be settled any time soon.

Nevertheless, the genie is out of the bottle. The fight for the African seat, or seats, is likely to be a lot less timid than, say, the 2010 Soccer World Cup bid.

And it goes without saying that of all the African contenders, SA is the most credible choice. It is the most politically stable and most capable of shouldering the great responsibilities, on behalf of Africa, of such an appointment.

One concern would be the relative weakness of the current foreign minister, who has yet to make her mark on world affairs outside of the many conferences she attends. And while Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has a fine appreciation of Africa's intricate political and economic history in the aftermath of the colonial era, she is often impetuous and always the ideologue.

An illustration of this can be found in SA's recent decision to recognise the Saharawi Arab **Democratic Republic**, a move considered "less a victory for principles of self-determination than a failure of international and bilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution".

The other candidates have their problems too. Egypt was engaged with Tunisia in a battle for an Arab leadership as it was eager to establish itself as the "tutor of **democratic** change" in the Arab world. This resulted in the collapse of the April Arab League summit in Tunis, causing concern about the chances of achieving a common approach to US plans to combat terrorism through political reforms in a "Greater Middle East".

Of course, all the jostling may be academic if the US decides that the UN and its security council no longer matter.

There will not have been much point in winning a permanent voice on the council if the world's superpower decides it is no longer worth listening to.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 29, 2004

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

Terms: **difficult choice...discussed by the council-conflict in liberia, democratic republic of congo...** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 - 6:06 AM EDT

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2004 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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

Terms: **ex-warlord johnson pledges to join liberian peace process** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



*Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire September 28, 2004*

Copyright 2004 Financial Times Information  
All rights reserved  
Global News Wire - Asia Africa Intelligence Wire  
Copyright 2004 Panafrican News Agency  
Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire

September 28, 2004

**LENGTH:** 281 words

**HEADLINE: EX-WARLORD JOHNSON PLEDGES TO JOIN LIBERIAN PEACE PROCESS**

**BODY:**

Monrovia, Liberia (PANA) - Former **Liberian** warlord Prince Yormie **Johnson**, has returned home from exile in Nigeria for the second time, pledging to **join** in the reconciliation process in his country.

It is the second home-coming in several months by the leader of the disbanded rebel Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), who was spirited away from Monrovia earlier this year following a row between him and Chayee Doe, younger brother of former **Liberian** President Samuel Doe, assassinated by **Johnson's** INPFL in 1990.

Chayee Doe, who accused **Johnson** of killing his Brother president, died in the US from a brain tumour surgery.

Speaking during a visit to the office of **Liberian** Justice Minister Kabinah Janneh, **Johnson**, who says he is now an evangelist, expressed "happiness over improved security" in the country.

He said he was back home to participate in the reconciliation process.

Janneh told the former warlord, the transitional government "is committed to the rule of law and the protection of all **Liberians**."

On the country's bloody 14-year civil war, the Minister said "no one is neutral. Everybody one way or another committed a crime against somebody."

During the war, **Johnson** broke away from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), which former President Charles Taylor used to launch the war against Doe in 1989.

**Johnson** was taken to Nigeria in 1992 by the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG.

Taylor, who won the presidential election that ended the first phase of the **Liberian** bloody civil war in 1997, is himself in exile in Nigeria and has been indicted for war crimes by the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone.

**JOURNAL-CODE:** WPNA

**LOAD-DATE:** September 29, 2004

## Taylor accused of meddling

Freetown: The prosecutor for Sierra Leone's United Nations-backed war crimes court has accused ex-Liberian president Charles Taylor of recruiting fighters in the country he once led and working to destabilise other west African nations.

Taylor, in exile in Nigeria after being forced to leave Liberia in August 2003, was now hiring his former militia fighters to cause mayhem in Ivory Coast and Guinea, David Crane said.

"Charles Taylor is not only a war criminal but is meddling in other countries' affairs, using Nimba County (in Liberia) as a recruiting base," said Crane, who has issued a 17-count indictment of Taylor for his alleged role in funding and directing rebels in Sierra Leone's brutal, decade-long conflict.

Ivory Coast and Guinea are widely believed to have helped the two Liberian insurgencies in the 1999 - 2003 rebellion that drove Taylor from power.

Nigeria agreed to take in Taylor on the condition he refrain from meddling in the affairs of Liberia or other countries.

Crane, a veteran US Defence Department lawyer, didn't say how he had obtained the information about Taylor's recruitment activities, or how Taylor was contacting his former allied militia fighters.

Taylor is not allowed to speak to reporters under the agreement with Nigeria, but a spokesman for the former president denied Crane's charges.

"All these accusations have always been there, that Taylor is the eye of the storm in West Africa. It's not true," said Vaani Paasawe.

**THE MERCURY** Published on the web by Mercury on September 29, 2004.

© Mercury 2004. All rights reserved.

## LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE: Sierra Leone to send back 500 detained Liberian fighters



© IRIN

**Liberian gunmen linked to former president Charles Taylor set to come home from Sierra Leone**

MONROVIA, 28 Sep 2004 (IRIN) - Sierra Leone will release about 500 Liberian gunmen linked to former president Charles Taylor and return them to Liberia later this year, a Foreign Ministry official in Monrovia said on Tuesday.

The Liberian official told IRIN that these men, some of whom have been detained in Sierra Leone for several years, would be granted a government amnesty on their return.

Some of these Liberians had been captured while fighting with Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel movement which waged war on the Freetown government between 1991 and

2001, the official said.

The RUF was supported by Taylor's government and operated from rear bases in Liberia and the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone has indicted Taylor for war crimes in view of his close involvement with the rebel cause.

The Foreign Ministry official said those to be released by Sierra Leone also included members of Taylor's militia forces in Liberia who had fled across the border to escape advances by the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement in northwestern Liberia during the latter stages of its 1989-2003 civil war.

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone had discussed the handover with Gyude Bryant, the chairman of Liberia's transitional government, and the justice ministries of the two countries were now discussing how to manage their return, the official added.

"From a series of negotiations, it is our opinion that they would be released in November or early December," he said.

"They were not only fighters that were captured in combat, but also those government militias under the government of former president Charles Taylor that fled rebel advancement in Liberia and crossed over into Sierra Leone for safety".

### **"Time for total forgiveness"**

"It is time for total forgiveness and reconciliation in Liberia and this government interposes no objection to granting them amnesty," the official said. Such a move

would officially announced by Bryant in due course, he added.

News of the imminent return of the Liberian fighters held in Sierra Leone first emerged on Monday.

Justin Bangura, the deputy head of the National Commission for Social Action of Sierra Leone, told reporters in Monrovia that the fighters, who are currently being held at several camps across Sierra Leone, would be handed over to Liberia upon the conclusion of talks between the two countries.

"Sierra Leone will soon be releasing five hundred Liberian fighters to the government of Liberia and we expect that a total amnesty would be granted to those fighters after they shall have been handed over to the National Transitional Government of Liberia", Bangura said.

He stressed that these former combatants had undergone rehabilitation and had received vocational training with the help of US\$1.2 million of funding from the European Union.

"Those are changed people, they have learnt new technical skills so that they can sustain themselves," Bangura said.

Meanwhile, Liberia is pondering what to do with several hundred fighters from neighbouring countries who have reported for disarmament following the end of its own 14-year civil war.

According to statistics provided by the Liberian National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation, a total of 563 foreign combatants in Liberia had registered for disarmament by 4 September.

Guinea topped the list with 282 of its nationals disarmed. Sierra Leone followed with 152 and Cote d'Ivoire was third with 112.

Molley Passaway, the spokesman for the Commission in Monrovia told IRIN that the fate of those foreign ex-combatants would be decided at what he called "a high policy level" by Liberia with the governments concerned.

Several Sierra Leonean mercenaries fought with Taylor's forces, notably Sam Bockarie, the former military commander of the RUF, who was killed in May 2003.

Diplomats say the LURD rebel movement was backed by Guinea and a second rebel group, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), had close links with Cote d'Ivoire. Both were believed to have recruited nationals of these countries into their ranks.

[ENDS]





DURHAM - SAN RAMÓN  
SISTER COMMUNITIES

## Amnesty Accuses Nigeria of Violating International Law

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

NEWS

September 28, 2004

Posted to the web September 28, 2004

### *Submits Amicus Curiae Brief to Federal Court to Challenge Taylor's Asylum*

In June last, former Liberian president, Charles G. Taylor was served an arrest warrant while attending the opening session of the Liberian peace processes in Accra, Ghana. What happened since then has been an issue of international debate. But of particular concern and even much more controversial are Taylor's asylum in Calabar and the refusal of Nigeria to extradite him to face his accusers on grounds that his presence in Nigeria is a crucial part of the Liberian peace process.

Besides the Nigerian government, no state or individual has seen how that can be so; and on account of that, many human rights groups including the Association of Human Rights Organizations in Liberia, Global Witness, and legal pressure groups in Nigeria have been pressing for Taylor's release to the special court in Sierra Leone ostensibly without success. Now, the international human rights giants, Amnesty International has thrown in its weight. The Analyst's Staff Writer reports.

"Charles Taylor has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity and war crimes. In accordance with international and African conventions on refugees which Nigeria has ratified, he should, therefore, be excluded from refugee protections."

This statement was contained in the September 22, 2004 amicus curiae brief submitted to the Nigerian Federal High Court by the London-based human rights group, Amnesty International in a case reviewing asylum granted to former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

In the amicus curiae or friend of the court brief, Amnesty argued that Nigeria must make a choice between submitting Nigeria for trial or open a national investigation with a view of determining whether to pursue criminal or extradition proceedings in Nigerian courts.

According to the brief, the decision by the Nigerian government to grant refugee status to Charles Taylor with apparent guarantees to protect him from prosecution for crimes against humanity and war crimes violates Nigeria's obligations under international law.

"This rule of international law seeks to ensure that states refrain from offering international protection to individuals who are accused of heinous crimes who are trying to evade justice," Amnesty emphasized in its brief which was reportedly signed by Prof. Guy Goodwin Gill said to be an international expert on international refugee law.

The Nigerian Federal High Court's review case which has been ongoing since March 31, 2004, is expected to consider Amnesty application in early October this year.

When that happens, according to political observers, the government of President Olusengun Obasanjo is likely to press ahead with its longstanding but trite argument that Taylor was a special case of international cooperation which it is not prepared to breach.

As it had done before, the West African power may not bother to say whether the special case of international cooperation supersedes international protocols, conventions, and treatise to which it is a party.

Charles Taylor was indicted in March 2003, for "bearing the greatest responsibility" for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law believed to fall within jurisdiction of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Since that time, the court has been unable to arraign Mr. Taylor despite the fact that it quashed the motions of Taylor's legal counsels that questioned its jurisdiction and raised the issue of immunity in favor of the defendant.

But that is not the only contradiction in the Taylor's extradition scenario, according to analysts.

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, David Crane concurred in a dispatch recently, pointing to Nigeria's official sanction of the Special Court notwithstanding its refusal to let Taylor go.

"Nigeria sits on the Special Court's Management Committee at UN headquarters in New York; Nigeria is the largest African donor to the Special Court; and from its beginning, the Court has been guarded by the Nigerian contingent of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)," the chief prosecutor revealed.

Various official government statements over the past year regarding Taylor's asylum have been consistently inconsistent, according to one view.

While one statement insists that Taylor will only be released by the Nigerian government upon request by the government of Liberia, discounting whether he is wanted by that

government or not, other Nigerian government statement has been contending that Taylor's asylum is part of the peace process and could not be ended before whole process.

"Countries have honour to protect like individuals. You don't give your word to people, you don't become part of a multi-lateral arrangement and then suddenly jump back and do the opposite. The admission of Charles Taylor into Nigeria was a carefully negotiated issue," Foreign Minister Olujini Adeniji said recently in an Africa Today magazine interview.

He was responding to an Africa Today query regarding whether Nigeria would "ultimately turn over Taylor" to the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone.

According to him, Nigeria has nothing to return Taylor to since it was clear from the beginning, through understanding reached amongst several heads of state and government, that she would not be required to do so.

The Nigerian envoy recalled that Nigeria agreed to take Taylor basically to get the peace process that had stalled by then reenergized in order to end the nightmare that was raging unabated inside Liberia.

He explained: "And it involved not only west African countries, but also some other African countries It involved the President of South Africa and the chairman of the AU President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and the immediate past chairman of the AU.

Everybody agreed. Nigeria was approached by everyone.

It involved 'extra-African' countries who pledged that everything should be done to get Charles Taylor out of Liberia otherwise the peace process cannot resume." Ambassador Adeniji revealed that at the time of the deal to take Taylor into Nigeria, it was unanimous, even with representatives of the international community, that that offered the best solution of getting over the internal conflict.

He said there was general agreement that the understanding would not only benefit Liberia, but that it would also benefit the whole of West Africa.

"Because you know these conflicts just circulate. It's the same group of guerillas who migrate from country to country. And we have to try and put a stop to that," the Nigeria foreign minister noted, alluding to allegations that Mr. Taylor is the epicenter of disruptive politics in the subregion.

Without saying so, the Nigeria foreign policy architect indicated that Taylor in Nigeria is a much lesser threat to regional peace and stability than a Taylor in Sierra Leone facing war crimes charges.

The Nigerian Foreign Affairs minister believes that surrendering Taylor for trial will not only jeopardise the Liberian peace process with dire consequences for the entire West African subregion, but is also a dishonorable thing to do, according to Africa Today.

How much of that matches up to counter-arguments that Taylor's trial will serve as a warning and deterrence to warmongers across the subregion, cannot be said readily.

But this position effectively set Nigeria on a lonely path apart from the countries and governments that Mr. Adeniji claimed agreed that Taylor would live in Nigeria in luxury and pageantry in spite of determined efforts to have him face trial in Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity.

All of this is politics of international diplomacy, said one analyst, adding, "The question now is, will Adeniji's protectionist theory prevail against Nigerian and international law comes October 13 this year?"