

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:

Monday, October 04, 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

Chief Norman calls for commission of inquiry

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the Special Court incarcerated former Internal Affairs and deputy Defence Minister of the present SLPP government has called for the establishment of a commission of inquiry "to investigate the happenings in Sierra Leone and to submit a conclusion with recommendations for those who did what and to what extent, and at what grave level; for parties to the conflict to complicity Sierra Leoneans who may be liable for lives, limbs, blood, property and other losses."

The chief made this request in a recent address, dated 15th June 2004 to the Lords of the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in his attempt to impress upon the chamber his right and

ability to legally defend himself in court.

Chief Norman called for the establishment of the commission on of inquiry with particular regard to CONTINUED BACK PAGE

Chief Norman calls for commission of inquiry

FROM PAGE 1

the Geneva Convention that Sierra Leone acceded to in 1986.

According to Protocol I of that convention, the chief claims that the conflict in Sierra Leone is/was international, which demands that article 90 of the Protocol be applied- which is the establishment of the commission of inquiry.

The chief concludes his call by noting, "any other way of doing it will only be a cynical manipulation of the process of law in Sierra Leone."

Chief Norman also reiterated his opposition to his trial by the Special Court on the grounds that he has not



Chief Sam Hinga Norman

been legally charged by the Court according to the rules of procedure, and that, in

any case, the Court lacks the constitutional authority to try him, pursuant to arti-

cle 8 of the Courts statute. The address is dated 15th June 2004.

Standard Times
4 October 2004

THE EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2147

Monday October 4, 2004

Le500

Nigeria To Hand Over Charles Taylor If...



David Crane
By Salisu Saccob

In an exclusive interview with this press at his Siaka Steven Street High Commission, His Excellency Abbas said by virtue of the pivotal role Nigeria played in the restoration of democracy and peace in Sierra Leone, it would be unwise for their Government to take the initiative to shelve ex-President Charles Taylor from answering questions to the Special Court. "After all, we lost thousands of our gallant Nigerian sol-

diers and officers in the struggle for democracy and peace in Sierra Leone," the

High Commissioner said. He explained that be-

cause of the atrocities that were committed in Liberia during the war, the Heads of

State in the West African sub-region and the African Union (AU) unanimously agreed

Nigeria To Hand Over Charles Taylor If...

From front page

that the best solution to the conflict in Liberia was to grant asylum to ex-President Charles Taylor. The High Commissioner said it was based on the agreement reached by the Heads of State that President Olusegun Okikiri Obasanjo agreed to grant Charles Taylor an asylum in Nigeria. His Excellency Abbas therefore asserted that it will be a self-defeat for Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor, adding that such decision will undermine the peace initiative in the sub-region.

However, the High Commissioner said the Nigerian government will not refuse to hand over Charles Taylor if a stable and democratically elected government in Liberia makes such request. "We will have no alternative but to comply with such request from any stable and democratically elected government in Liberia," he reiterated. Meanwhile, the new High Commissioner has entreated his Nigerian brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone to be law abiding.



Charles Taylor: in dilemma



PETROLEUMWORLD .com

Latin American Energy, Oil & Gas
Venezuela



HOME

Spanish

petroleumworld.worldbid.com

PETROLEUMWORLD MARKETPLACE

Latin American Energy, Oil & Gas
Venezuela

Weekly

Review

Business

Directory

Op-Ed Commentary

NEW
Trade Leads

Market

UPI outside View 's Greg Guma: Who let the dogs of war out?

Bulletin

Board

Events

Calendar

Const-costs

Guide

Contracting

Guide

Geological

Guide

Transport

Cargo

Industry

Jobs

Usefull

Links

It was supposed to be a surgical, Mission Impossible-style operation. Seventy soldiers of fortune, led by Simon Mann, a former British SAS officer, would fly into Equatorial Guinea and overthrow its corrupt and ailing dictator, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasago.

" President-in-exile" Severo Moto quickly flies in from Spain to take charge. Afterward, the western African nation's former colonial ruler helps shape the international response by quickly recognizing the post-coup government.

According to Nick De Troit, one of the mercenary force's leaders, the plot wasn't even a secret. He has since testified that unnamed "higher-up politicians" in the U.S. gave their blessings. They and British Foreign Office officials allegedly heard the plan during a meeting in London, reports the U.K.'s Independent newspaper.

Like many a scheme, however, it turned bad. On March 7, a U.S.-registered plane carrying the "Harare 70" was impounded in Zimbabwe. Everyone on board, including Mann, was arrested. Among the passengers were eight South Africans, six Armenians, and a German who died in jail under suspicious circumstances before their trial began.

It sounds like another African tragic-comedy, eerily similar to the Frederick Forsythe novel, "The Dogs of War." But the trail leads to oil companies, the Washington-based Riggs Bank, and the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Equatorial Guinea sits on the continent's third largest oil supply. The U.S. currently imports 15 percent of its foreign oil from the Gulf of Guinea, and experts expect it to reach 25 percent by 2020. Oil production has risen since 1997, currently topping 360,000 barrels a day. There's also natural gas. Its population: a mere 510,000, three-quarters of them malnourished and most earning about \$1 a day.

Advertising

Rates

About

Us

Several major oil companies -- Exxon Mobil, Amerada Hess, ChevronTexaco, and Marathon Oil -- as well as smaller outfits have a presence. According to a Senate investigation report issued in July, the relationship between these companies and Riggs raises "concerns related to corruption and profiteering."

Despite years of documented human rights abuses by Obiang's regime, the oil companies have provided him and his entourage with payments, scholarships for children of the elite, joint business ventures, and lucrative rentals. According to a Los Angeles Times investigation, oil proceeds were diverted to the country's ruler.

By 2003, Equatorial Guinea was Riggs' biggest depositor, its top officials and leading citizens stashing \$700 million in the U.S. bank. Million arrived in shrink-wrapped bundles. Nevertheless, Riggs executives denied knowing anything was amiss, and say they relied on the advice of Bruce McColm, a Virginia-based expert.

As it turns out, McColm heads the Institute for Democratic Strategies, which consults with Obiang's government on elections and human rights. He also runs International Decision Strategies, Inc., a joint venture with Obiang to bring high-speed Internet to the country. The Senate concluded that Riggs "turned a blind eye to evidence suggesting the bank was handling the proceeds of foreign corruption."

Under pressure from regulators, Riggs closed the Equatorial Guinea accounts in early 2004. In May, the Bank agreed to pay \$25 million in civil penalties for "willful" and "systemic" violation of anti-money laundering laws.

As the money stopped flowing, the coup took shape. At the center was Mann, founder of the defunct PMC Executive Outcomes (EO). Once based in Pretoria, EO employed former South Africa special forces officers to intervene in conflicts. In the 1990s, it helped Angola beat back Unita rebels; ironically, most of the "mercs" had fought alongside the rebels during South Africa's apartheid era. It also helped Sierra Leone fight rebels, in exchange for cash and diamond concessions.

When South Africa passed a law to control mercenaries, Mann closed down EO, turning its contacts over to rising PMCs, notably Sandline and the U.S.-based Military Professional Resources, Inc. To finance the coup, he allegedly turned to his friend and Cape Town neighbor Mark Thatcher. Under house arrest in anticipation of court testimony in November, Thatcher is accused of providing \$275,000 to finance the coup. Members of the same mercenary group successfully executed a bloodless coup in Sao Tome and Principe, Gulf of Guinea islands straddling the Equator, in July 2003.

For the British, the question at the moment is whether Thatcher, Sir Mark since his father died last year, will be extradited, or convicted in South Africa for violating the law prohibiting residents from participating in foreign military adventures. In convicted, he faces a potential 15 years in jail.

More is at stake, however. Obiang points mainly at Spain. Moto is a longtime personal friend of former Prime Minister Jose Aznar, the third man at the podium when George W. Bush and Tony Blair announced the "coalition of the willing." He also indicts private military involvement, a "trade that the international economic powers and the multinationals are using." And why? "The petroleum wealth of Africa is the new honey that attracts the foreign bees to our home."

Five years ago, MPRI lobbied hard to win State Department approval for a contract to protect oil interests in Equatorial Guinea. The idea was to develop a coast guard to protect resources being tapped by ExxonMobil and others. The U.S. already knew Obiang rigged elections and murdered opponents. It didn't matter much then to the administration or Congress.

What's changed? Bush is in, Aznar is out, and Gulf of Guinea oil is more enticing than ever. The real question is whether it was just a Spanish operation, with a poor technical assist, or a deniable gamble backed by British and US intelligence. Chances that upcoming testimony will answer that one are slim to none.

Greg Guma edits the Vermont Guardian, a new statewide weekly (vermontguardian.com), and Toward Freedom. He is the author of "Uneasy Empire" and the historical thriller "Spirits of Desire," available in October from Booksurge.com. He can be reached at Greg@vermontguardian.com.) . Petroleumworld not necessarily share these views.(United Press International's "Outside View" commentaries are written by outside contributors who specialize in a vum, original submissions are invited.)

Editor's Note: This commentary was originally distribute by UPI , on Sep 27, 2004. Petroleumworld reprint this article in the interest of our readers.

Petroleumworld encourages persons to reproduce, reprint, or broadcast Petroleumworld Editorial articles provided that any such reproduction identify the original source, <http://www.petroleumworld.com> and it is done within the fair use as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law Internet web links to <http://www.petroleumworld.com> are appreciated.

Petroleumworld News 10/04/ 04

Copyright ©UPI 2004, All rights reserved

[Send this story to a friend](#)

Your feedback is important to us!

We invite all our readers to share with us their views and comments about this article.

[Write to editor@petroleumworld.com](mailto:editor@petroleumworld.com)

Any question or suggestions, please write to:
editor@petroleumworld.com



Best Viewed with IE 5.01+
Windows NT 4.0, '95, '98 and ME +/- 800x600 pixels

Contact: editor@petroleumworld.com/phones:(58 412) 996 3730 or 952 5301
www.petroleumworld.com-Editor: *Elio Ohep* /Publisher-Producer: *Elio Ohep*.
Contact Email: editor@petroleumworld.com

Legal Information. CopyRight © 2002, *Elio Ohep*.- All rights reserved

This site is a public free site and it contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by

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

Terms: **children and youth; 20,000 child soldiers have been demobilized says un official** ([Edit Search](#))

☑ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



Africa News September 30, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 AllAfrica, Inc.
Africa News

September 30, 2004 Thursday

LENGTH: 452 words

**HEADLINE: Children and Youth;
20,000 Child Soldiers Have Been Demobilized, Says UN Official**

BYLINE: UN News Service

BODY:

About 20,000 former **child soldiers have been demobilized** from rebel groups in southern Sudan since 2001, but an estimated 17,000 young combatants remain and their reintegration could be hampered by prevailing poverty and discrimination, a paper co-authored by a **United Nations** official says.

The paper says the demobilization of so many **child** soldiers since 2001 has been a relatively straightforward process because locals were willing to accept them because they viewed their cause as a popular struggle. The **child soldiers** had also usually been based close to their original homes.

Published in the latest edition of the journal *Forced Migration Review*, the paper is written by **UN Children's** Fund (UNICEF) protection officer Una McCauley and independent consultant Chris Robertson.

Demobilization has been taking place since 2001 as the civil war in southern Sudan, which has been raging since 1983, begins to wind down in anticipation of a peace agreement.

Evaluating the demobilization, which was initially conducted by UNICEF but later by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People's Democratic Front (SPDF), the authors argue that many **child soldiers** had already deserted from the army or rebel groups.

Reunification with families was a key incentive, many **children** said, as well as the opportunity to regularly attend school or to escape the inherent risks and rigidity of serving in an armed force.

But the paper says that poverty - cited by **child soldiers** as one of the main reasons for joining up in the first place - remains a problem, with returning **children** viewed in many cases as simply an extra mouth to feed.

The authors call for targeted assistance for **demobilized child soldiers**, although they acknowledge that those **children** were often better off than their counterparts in the general population, who "exhibited obvious signs of malnutrition, were barefoot" and had few clothes.

They also say it will be much more difficult for the remaining **child soldiers** to reintegrate as they are more likely to have experienced urban life, enjoyed some kind of income while fighting or fought for the "wrong side" in the conflict.

Child soldiers who have fought with government forces or allied militias may have also converted to Islam, and local leaders in the south, where most of the population holds either Christian or indigenous beliefs, have told the authors they are concerned about this and may seek to "re-convert" the **children**.

"Others blame the **demobilized children** for rising crime and localized conflict and suggest that priority needs to be given to increasing the capacity of the police and the prison service," the authors state.

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2004

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

Terms: **children and youth; 20,000 child soldiers have been demobilized says un official** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 09/28/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Monday, October 4, 2004 - 6:08 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: **diplomacy alone not to end africa's conflict** ([Edit Search](#))

☛ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



BBC Worldwide Monitoring, October 2, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 British Broadcasting Corporation
BBC Monitoring **Africa** - Political
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 2, 2004, Saturday

LENGTH: 294 words

HEADLINE: Tanzania: Gambian leader says **diplomacy alone** will not end **Africa's** civil strife

SOURCE: The Guardian web site, Dar es Salaam, in English 2 Oct 04

BODY:

Text of report entitled "**Diplomacy alone** won't end **Africa's** civil strife" published by Tanzanian newspaper The Guardian web site on 2 October

Visiting Gambian President Alhaji Dr Yahya Jammeh has said diplomatic means **alone** cannot end civil strife in **Africa**. Dr Jammeh was speaking on Thursday 30 September evening during official talks with his host, President Benjamin Mkapa at the State House in Dar es Salaam.

He alternatively urged African leaders 'to tell the truth' to their fellow leaders who entertain **conflicts** in their countries. He said diplomatic talks **alone** were not enough. "If we really want to end the **conflicts** we are facing, we should reach a point where we must tell each other the truth. Exposing leaders misdeeds is the only way to end the civil strife," said Dr Jammeh.

Citing west African countries, he said they had made strides in restoring peace in Sierra Leone, Liberia and other countries. "If you tell them (leaders) the truth, first they will get annoyed, but in the end they will definitely comply.

Diplomacy alone will not help us," said the Gambian leader. He said in addition to telling the truth, purposeful strategy for advising neighbouring countries was needed to any country experiencing **conflicts**. Dr Jammeh expressed hope that the visit would boost bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic sector.

He mentioned the areas as agriculture , tourism and trade. He said Tanzania had an outstanding contribution to the economy of Gambia, as most of its key experts had studied at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Dr Jammeh arrived in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening for a three-day official visit to Tanzania following an invitation by President Mkapa.

LOAD-DATE: October 2, 2004

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

Terms: **diplomacy alone not to end africa's conflict** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 09/28/2004**