

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:

Friday, November 19, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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CONCORD TIMES

Excellence and Objectivity

November 19, 2004

Price: Le500

Norman lines up Kabbah, Berewa, 98 others as witnesses

By Chernoh Alpha M. Beh

Special Court indictee, Sam Hinga Norman Wednesday reportedly released a list of 100 personalities he hope to call as witnesses in his efforts to exonerate himself from war crimes charges proffered against him by the Special Court.

Reports say President Kabbah, whose government Norman fought to restore in 1997, is at the top of the list.

Others whose names have been included on the list are Vice President Solomon Berewa,



Norman - emulating Milosevic former Vice President Albert Joe Demby, former Internal Affairs

Minister, Charles Margai, SLPP Secretary General Prince Harding, Foreign Affairs Minister Momodu Koroma, Richard E. S. Lagao and a host of Paramount Chiefs together with former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold and John Leigh, former Sierra Leone Ambassador to the United States.

Norman is quoted to have said that Kabbah was the Defence Minister during the period for which he faces war crimes charges and he (Norman) was the Deputy Continued page 3

Norman lines up Kabbah, Berewa

FROM PAGE 1

Defense Minister under the President at the time.

General Victor Malue, Timothy Shelpidi, and other Ecomog commanders are also included on the list.

But Special Court Spokesman, Peter Anderson said they are not aware of

the existence of the said list.

"That can best be confirmed by his lead Counsel, Charles Margai, but we are not aware if that list exists," he said and added that the decision of whether witnesses should testify is left with the judges to decide.

Anderson says he spoke with a

member of Norman's defense team who equally denies the existence of a short list of witnesses including the names of President Kabbah and other officials. Efforts to get Presidential Spokesman, Kanji Daramy to comment on the issue proved futile, as he was reportedly absent from his office.

STANDARD TIMES

Friday November 19, 2004

Le500

Taylor to face trial in Liberia

BY ABU BAKARR KARGBO

Since war broke out fourteen years ago in Liberia, it has been no secret that former Liberian president, Charles Taylor is at the head of the campaign to transform the sub-region into his fiefdom through the export of rebellions to other countries in West Africa.

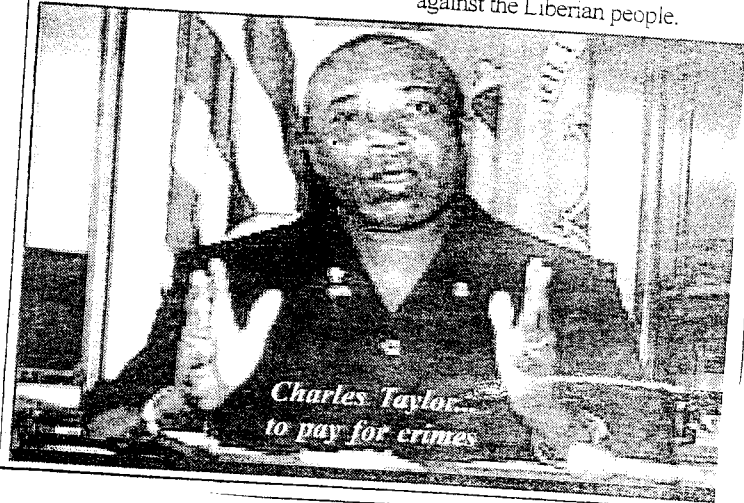
It is in this regard that Charles Taylor, who is currently in exile in the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been found wanting in his country and other parts of the sub-region to face trial.

Victoria V. Korti, a Liberian journalist with the Mano River Union Peace Forum reiterated this point when speaking to this press over the weekend.

She noted that Taylor's regime contributed greatly not only to the backwardness of the press in that country but in the sub-region as a whole through his suppression of free press and democracy and support for negative rebellions in the MRU countries.

"We want him to be tried in Liberia and severely dealt with. To try him out of the country is a violation of the Liberian constitution," the journalist said.

She noted also that although most people in Liberia are happy about Taylor's indictment by the Special Court in Sierra Leone, the people of Liberia also want him to answer to questions of war crimes, human rights violations and other related offences against the Liberian people.



*Charles Taylor
to pay for crimes*



Justice Ayoola, President of the Special Court

**How
Special
Court
Became
'An Oven'**

*By Moses Pratt
 SALONE TIMES on reporting the complaint of Judge Benjamin Itoe about the Special Court being an 'oven' as reported in yesterday's edition sent out its investigators to find out the real reason why the multi-million dollar court house could not be cooled.*

Our findings are that this is directly related to the severe power problem at the court complex. All four generators at the Special Court with enough capacity to run all equipment to their full potential and having sufficient reserve

SEE PAGE 3

Special Court Generators Break Down

capacity have been down for weeks. The Court has been compelled to install temporary generators loaned for the purpose of keeping proceedings going. It appears capacity limitations in their operation and possible fluctuations are severely limiting the operation of the cooling system to its full potential. SALONE TIMES has reliably learnt that there is nothing amiss with the cooling system. We will endeavour to investigate further the reasons for the breakdown of the generators and on plans for their repair. Meanwhile Special Court Engineers are working frantically to remedy the power situation to enable the convenient operation of the Court.

Justice in Sierra Leone

November 21, 2004

Reporter :Darren Lunny

Producer : Paul Steindl



Sierra Leone is a small, broken-down republic on the west coast of Africa where the "have nots" far exceed the "haves". Torn by years of civil war, Sierra Leone now has a democratically elected government which is struggling to come to terms with an impoverished economy and endemic corruption.

It wasn't always like this. When the English left in the 1960s, it was a bustling, prosperous nation with a solid infrastructure, including a strong judicial system based on British law. Forty years on it's a different story. Zainab Bangura, a human rights activist, explains: "You know we have a joke in Sierra Leone ... people say they would rather hire a judge or a magistrate than a lawyer ... so you buy justice."

But buying justice was not what the United Nations had in mind when it agreed to set up a special court to prosecute the war crimes carried out by both Government and rebel soldiers during the civil war.

Peter Halloran was seconded to the UN special court via the Victorian police where he'd been a noted investigator and head of the homicide squad. He was joined in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, by a former Tasmania police officer, Mandy Cordwell. The pair shared a house with another two special court investigators.

It all began when Peter Halloran set about hiring a babysitter for a friend. Mandy Cordwell said she observed the 13-year-old girl Kadi Kabia sitting on Peter Halloran's bed. She later questioned Kadi about her relationship with Halloran and was told it was a sexual one. She took a statement from Kadi to the special court who then convened two inquiries into the relationship. The second inquiry exonerated Halloran but that wasn't enough to stop the Sierra Leone judicial system prosecuting the case — even though Kadi Kabia had withdrawn her original statement, saying it was made up.

For six weeks before the trial began, Peter Halloran found himself locked up in the country's most notorious prison. He'd come along way to deliver justice and now found himself on the other side of the law. Tim Carrodus, a former Victorian detective, was hired by Peter Halloran's family to oversee the case. He visited Halloran in prison, and commented: "What were the conditions like? I've been asked that question before. Best described as, if you've seen the movies of *Papillon* and *Midnight Express*."

Time in prison would possibly have given Halloran time to reflect on how he had ended up in this situation ... but he claims, according to Carrodus, he is still none the wiser. Mandy Cordwell has chosen not to shed light on her role, refusing to talk to the media while the trial is in progress.

However, the President of Sierra Leone, Tejan Kabbah, was happy to grant an interview to *Sunday*, although he, too, was less than forthcoming when asked to comment on the trial.

"Are you happy, are you satisfied that everything has been done justly and openly?"

"I cannot make such a statement, and I tell you why. Number one: I've not got any details of it and I honestly don't know, I do not know. And number two: a police matter which is being investigated, I would normally not get involved."

After being set down for two weeks the trial has now been dragging on for almost three months with no end in sight. Peter Halloran is said to be less than happy with the way the case has been reported back in Australia and is considering legal action against the Victorian Police for allegedly spreading rumours about his past involvement with the NCA back in the 1980s. He is also upset about the lack of support given to him by the police hierarchy and the police association.

But until justice in Sierra Leone arrives for Peter Halloran, all he is able to do is sit and wait.



11/18/2004 14:00:15

Ivorians must learn from our mistakes: Liberian president

BERLIN, Nov 18 (AFP) - Ivory Coast must not make the same mistakes as neighbouring **Liberia** and slip into a devastating civil war, the interim Liberian president said here on Thursday.

President Gyude Bryant called on Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo to seek a solution to the unrest in the west African country which was once a beacon of stability while **Liberia** was locked in a 14-year civil war.

"They can see the effects of war from **Liberia** and that should be an example. Our country was devastated," Bryant told AFP in an interview during a visit to the German capital.

"The problem is internal conflicts, not external danger."

Bryant said he was convinced the rebel-held north of Ivory Coast could be reconciled with the south despite the recent violation of an 18-month ceasefire which has led to mounting tension, the death of nine French peacekeepers and the subsequent panicked departure of thousands of Ivory Coast nationals and foreign residents.

Bryant said: "What is needed is prudence in keeping to the agreements they have struck in Marcoussis and Accra.

"If both sides were to give a little they will find a resolution. We have a saying in **Liberia** that sometimes you have to stoop to conquer."

More than 10,000 Ivorians have already fled across the border into **Liberia** to escape the unrest. Bryant said **Liberia** could accommodate them for now.

"They are innocent and helpless people and they can stay until it is safe for them to go home. We will not be closing the border. We cannot push people back into a crisis."

However Bryant said **Liberia** was keeping a close eye on ensuring rebel fighters did not cross into his country from Ivory Coast.

"We have seen from our country that sometimes people cross borders in search of perceived enemies."

Bryant met German President Horst Koehler on Wednesday and "thanked him for all the help Germany has given and is continuing to give to **Liberia**," he added.

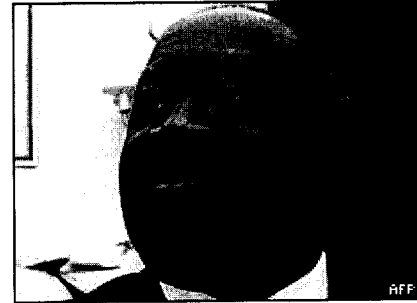
BBC Last Updated: Thursday, 18 November, 2004, 18:52 GMT

Ivorian call for French to return President Laurent Gbagbo has called for the French business community who fled Ivory Coast's recent unrest to return to the country.

"French schools were burned in Abidjan, so I understand completely that parents are leaving," Mr Gbagbo told radio station France Info.

But he said French and Ivorian "mutual interests" were currently at stake".

Civil war in Ivory Coast reignited two weeks ago, when the Ivorian air force broke a truce by attacking the rebels.



Gbagbo says French interests in the country are significant

'Deliberate act'

A French group is suing Mr Gbagbo for the deaths of nine French peacekeepers killed in strikes on 6 November.

Lawyer Eric Dupont-Moretti told AFP news agency that the suit, which was also brought against armed forces chief of staff Colonel Philippe Mangou, aimed to bring charges of "premeditated voluntary homicide" against the Ivorian leader.

Mr Gbagbo has said that the strike on the French base in Bouake in the rebel-held north of the country was an accident and has suggested that, as he has not seen the bodies, they may not exist.

But French armed forces chief of staff General Henri Bentegeat has said he was "sure it was deliberate".

Head of the rebel forces Guillaume Soro has said he wants Mr Gbagbo tried for war crimes, according to Reuters news agency.

"Using warplanes to bomb your own population seems to us not only like a violation of the ceasefire but also like a war crime," Mr Soro said after meeting with the UN on Thursday.

Job losses

Calm is gradually being restored to the country.

But two weeks of turbulence have knocked the country backwards, not least economically.

Days of anti-white violence caused thousands of westerners, who hold a disproportionate chunk of the economy, to leave the country, putting jobs at risk.

PEACE UNRAVELS

29 Sept: Parliament fails to meet deadline for political reforms

15 Oct: Rebels ignore deadline for disarmament

28 Oct: Rebels withdraw from unity government

"I own seven cars, and run three others. But at the moment we can go more than a week without hiring one," the owner of a car hire company used by foreigners told BBC correspondent in Ivory Coast James Copnall.

"I have a lot of employees, there are at least 12 drivers I employ. At the moment I can say they are unemployed," the owner said.

President Gbagbo in the France Info interview pointed out that "France has its interests" in Ivory Coast.

"What are [French businessmen] supposed to do today in France after having invested their whole lives in the Ivory Coast?" he asked.

Embargo 'convenient'

He went on to welcome the arms embargo the UN placed on Ivory Coast this week.

"The embargo is convenient for us. If it means that our adversaries no longer have any weapons, we will no longer need weapons either," he said.

A meeting of Ivory Coast's unity cabinet was held on Thursday with all the main opposition parties represented.

United Nations peacekeepers provided security.

Only the New Forces rebel group failed to turn up.

They withdrew from the government at the end of October, after they said a cache of arms was found being smuggled by government supporters through rebel-held territory, in spite of a disarmament programme.

Prime Minister Seydou Diarra - who is a Muslim from the rebel-held north of the country - also attended the session.

In another development, the transfer of power at the top of the Ivory Coast army has been postponed indefinitely owing to the illness of existing General Mathias Doue, AFP reports.

Major Colonel Philippe Mangou, the hawkish former leader of the military's northern command, was tipped by President Gbagbo to replace General Doue, who has been considered a moderating voice within the armed forces since he was installed in 2000.

4 Nov: Government aircraft begin air strikes on rebel-held territory

6 Nov: Air strike kills nine French soldiers; France destroys Ivorian planes

7 Nov: Gbagbo supporters demonstrate against the French in Abidjan; UN condemns Ivorian attacks

8,9 Nov: Anti-French rioting

10 Nov: French begin evacuating civilians

15 Nov: UN sanctions imposed

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AFRICA: SECURITY COUNCIL FAILS ARMED CONFLICTS TEST, SAYS OXFAM

Media Release

Immediate: Wednesday 17 November 2004

UN Security Council given failing grade on African conflicts in 2004

The UN Security Council has failed so far this year to respond adequately to conflicts in Africa, states a new report card released by international agency Oxfam today. Oxfam is urging the Council to put this record behind them as they meet in Nairobi tomorrow and Friday, and undertake a mission to the Great Lakes next week.

The report, released ahead of the Council's historic meeting in Nairobi, ranks the UN body poorly on its efforts to help push for peace and protect civilians in forgotten and deadly conflicts in neighbouring DRC and Northern Uganda, as well as in Sudan.

"As the eyes of the world are on the Council's unique meeting in Nairobi and trip to the Great Lakes region, now is the time to address forgotten African conflicts that have claimed millions of lives," said Oxfam's Regional Director Caroline Nursey.

"We urge the Council to turn words into concrete actions to stop the ongoing violence and address the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. They must also, together with the African Union, take early action in response to new crises before they spiral out of control." said Nursey.

Oxfam focused particularly on the Security Council's failure in Northern Uganda. A war has raged here for a generation, claiming thousands of lives and causing 1.6 million to flee their homes.

"The Security Council has left the situation in Northern Uganda to fester for two deadly decades, said Caroline Nursey. "It has largely ignored the situation and has never passed a resolution addressing the crisis. This appalling negligence has resulted in lives lost."

As Council members discuss a resolution on Sudan and meet the African Union and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development, the meeting in Nairobi gives them an opportunity to come a step closer to seeing the impact of their decisions on the conflicts they seek to solve.

"The response to the crisis in Darfur has been

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What our subscribers say

I have just read my latest on-line copy of Pambazuka News and wish to tell you how much I appreciate receiving such an informative newsletter.

Letters	characterized by internal wrangling, months of delays and half-hearted action. In contrast the Council's response in Cote d'Ivoire shows that they are capable of acting swiftly when they want to," said Oxfam's Nursey.
Pan-African Postcard	"African people will be looking to the Security Council's visit to be more than just a token - the UN must deliver real action to deal with Africa's conflicts." said Nursey.
Conflict and Emergencies	ENDS
Human Rights	Contacts:
Rights of Women: News	Gemma Swart - in Nairobi - + 254 733 632 810
Refugees and Forced Migration	Brendan Cox - in Nairobi - + 44 7818 40 60 38
Women and Gender	Caroline Green - in New York - + 1 202 321 7858
Elections and Governance	
Development	
Corruption	DRC 3/10
Health	
HIV/AIDS	Progress this year: After years of civil war that has claimed the lives of up to 3 million people, a UN authorised intervention force helped to stabilise areas of conflict in Ituri. However, instability remains in the east and massacres have continued - in some areas under the noses of UN troops. Kofi Annan recently requested an increase in troops from 10,800 to 23,900, but the Security Council authorised less than half that and deployment has not progressed.
Education	Assessment: An important challenge to which the Council has failed to rise. Requests for more support have met with lukewarm response. The Council has not galvanised the world.
Social Welfare	
Racism and Xenophobia	
Environment	
Land and Land Rights	
Media and Freedom of Expression	
News from the Diaspora	
Advocacy and Campaigns	UGANDA 1/10
Internet and Technology	Progress this year: The Council has not passed a single resolution on the ongoing war in Northern Uganda, though Under-Secretary-General Jan Egeland's November report called this the world's worst forgotten crisis. Children are still being abducted and killed, millions remain homeless, 30,000 are forced to flee to Kitgum town every night.
eNewsletters and Mailing Lists	Assessment: Council attention is long overdue and urgently required to catalyze the peace process and insist that vulnerable civilians be protected.
Fundraising and Useful Resources	
Courses, Seminars, and Workshops	
Jobs	
Books and Arts	
	SUDAN 2/10
	Progress this year: Internal divisions have kept the Council from reacting quickly and appropriately to the massive humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Very limited steps have been taken to restrain the parties, end impunity, and support an African-led protection force. Violence and insecurity continue to plague Darfur, where up to 70,000 have died and 1.7 million been forced to flee their homes. Attention to the North-South

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JOHN DADA,
FANTSUAM
FOUNDATION
Nigeria

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peace talks has been more promising, with the upcoming meeting in Nairobi expected to yield results.

Assessment: As a major focus of world attention, the Council has been forced to take some limited steps, though these are woefully inadequate given the scale of the crisis. Thousands of lives and the Council's credibility now depend on its ability to follow-through and hold the parties to their commitments.

LIBERIA 5/10

Progress this year. A peacekeeping force was deployed last year, but only after several months of fighting that cost many lives. 15,000 troops were eventually deployed, combatants were disarmed and situation stabilised. However, attention has since waned and the reconstruction process is now progressing very slowly, which could again jeopardize the stability of the country.

Assessment: An example of how the Security Council can perform and deploy large numbers of troops once it finally gets into gear, but the delay cost lives.

IVORY COAST 7/10

Progress this year: The Council authorized peacekeepers and rapidly passed resolutions in response to renewed violence.

Assessment: On top of long-term peacekeeping work, the Security Council has responded quickly to a recent test. A good example of how the Council can respond when there is sufficient political will.

2004-11-18


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At rare Security Council session in Africa, Annan seeks an end to Sudan's wars

18 November 2004 – Warning that “there is no time to waste” in ending Sudan’s “long nightmare” of civil wars, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today urged a rare special session of the Security Council in Africa to give the final impetus to peace talks in the south while addressing “the terrible situation” in the west of the continent’s largest nation.

“For far too long war has inflicted misery and untold human suffering on Sudan, distorting the allocation of scarce resources, discouraging foreign aid, and scaring away both Sudanese and foreign investors,” Mr. Annan said at the start of the two-day session in Nairobi, capital of neighbouring Kenya where peace talks between the Sudanese Government and southern rebels have yet to be concluded despite significant progress.

“The effects of delay are felt not only in the south, but elsewhere too, as conflict spreads to more parts of the country. The devastating conflict in Darfur is glaring evidence of this,” Mr. Annan added, referring to fighting and massacres in the vast western region which the United Nations has called the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

He said it was high time to conclude the peace talks that have been taking place in Naivasha, Kenya, between the Khartoum Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army (SPLM/A).

“I am confident that you will, in your collective and your private discussions with Vice President Ali Othman Taha and (SPLM/A leader) Dr. John Garang, and in the resolution that you will be adopting on Sudan, encourage the parties to sign a comprehensive peace agreement before the end of the year,” Mr. Annan declared.

“And I particularly welcome the Council's promise of full support for the implementation of such an agreement, and its offer of incentives to encourage the parties to do what is right for their people and country.”

Successful conclusion of the peace agreement would lead to the formation of a new North-South coalition government with a new army including the SPLM/A, and Mr. Annan said such a development would add weight and impetus to the search for a settlement in Darfur.

“The terrible situation in Darfur has been brought about mainly by deliberate acts of violence against civilians, including widespread killing and rape,” he said, noting a continuing deterioration as the Government, militias and rebel groups have breached agreements seeking to safeguard humanitarian rights and security.

“This has made humanitarian work by the UN and our partners precarious and difficult, if not impossible,” he added of the region the size of France, where about 1.45 million people have been forced from their homes inside the country and Janjaweed militias stand accused of killing and raping thousands of villagers after rebel groups took up arms against the Government last year. Another 200,000 are living as refugees in neighbouring Chad.

“When crimes on such a scale are being committed, and a sovereign state appears unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens, a grave responsibility falls on the international community, and specifically on this Council,” he declared.

Noting that the African Union, with UN backing, was deploying troops to mediate and monitor the situation in Darfur, Mr. Annan called on all Member States with the capacity to do so to give the maximum possible support so that this force, including the essential police contingent, can deploy swiftly and mount an effective operation on the ground.

“By meeting here in the region, you have made an important gesture of solidarity and support for the peoples and

institutions of the new Africa,” he concluded. “What is happening in Sudan – and in other African countries on your agenda, such as Côte d'Ivoire – is a grave challenge not only to Africa but to all humanity. The United Nations must be fully engaged in helping meet it.”

 **Video of Annan's address** [13 mins]