

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, January 31, 2005

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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At Special Court...

Sama Banyya's Son Implicated

By Joseph TERRY
45 year old witness for the prosecution of the Special Court whose code name is TF1 015 last Friday named

the son of Dr. Sama Banyya, Capt. K.S. Banyya, as one of those who captured and abducted him, together with other 249 civilians in their village in Kono.

The witness who was led in evidence by Sierra Leonean born prosecutor, Muhamed A. Iscandari, said when AFRC junta troops attacked the town

and other surrounding villages in 1998, most of the civilians had to flee and hide themselves while he was captured and separated from his

wife and two children. TF1 015 said the rebels separated them into different groups. Amongst them he said was the Small Boys

Unit (SBU's) which most times were responsible for the burning of houses. Their commander was one Col. "Peh"
Contd. page 2

Sama Banyya's Son Implicated

From front page

peh".
Witness disclosed that he was at first under the command of one Major Rocky who later handed him over to the ruling SLPP Chairman, Dr. Sama "Puawuu" Banyya's son, Capt. Banyya, who in a conversation introduced himself as the son of Dr. Sama Banyya and that he hailed from Kailahun.

The witness testified that he stayed with Capt. Banyya at Waydedu with other captured civilians who most times sent them to go on food finding missions, adding that sometimes the Captain would asked him to stay at the base to pray for the others who had gone to the battle field.

TF1 015 said at one time while some of the captured civilians went to find food behind a town called Koranko in the Koinadugu district, they did not return after one week. On their arrival witness said most of them had looted items on their heads, while some who could no longer walk properly had their feet banded.

Witness said the looted food items were handed over to Capt. Banyya, after which the civilians returned back to their houses.

The witness further revealed that when he peeped through his window, he saw most of the rebels sitted around Capt. Banyya's residence and he heard most of the civilians saying the following day they would go food finding again.

Witness added that when he heard this he advised them to go into the bush and hide instead of staying with the rebels.

TF1 015 noted after they had gone into hiding in the bush, Capt. Banyya enquired from him the next morning about their whereabouts, but denied knowing anything.

TF1 015 said at around 4 p.m. that same day, one of the civilians who came back from his hiding place was intercepted by Capt. Banyya who ordered him to

go and call his companions in the bush.

Witness said on their arrival, the first person who was interviewed told Capt. Banyya that he advised them to hide.

Upon this, witness said he was arrested on the orders of Banyya for questioning.

At this stage in the hearing, the defence team for all three accused of the RUF, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, objected on the grounds that most of what the witness was disclosing was fresh evidence that was not contained in the witness's original statement and that the prosecution had not furnished them with all the information and other undisclosed related information.

Here the judges ruled that the Prosecution had breached Rule 66 of the Rules of Procedures and further ruled that the Prosecution should furnish the defence team with all undisclosed materials before the end of the 28 January, 05.

The court is adjourned for today when the witness will continue his testimony.

TFV do people

Monday, January 31,

2005

FDP

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of repression and resistance."
Robert Kennedy

REBELS TAKE ABDUCTEES TO "IGBALEH"

LED IN evidence by the prosecution counsel, special court witness TFI- 015 who spoke through an interpreter in Kono told the court how 249 of them were captured and taken to a place called Igbaleh.

SUTHORONKA

tenow demno later on.

"Non of the civilians that I spoke to or saw had guns nor did they take part in the shooting that took place in the Town," he said, adding that he later joined the crowd towards 'Tengoro Bush' about seven miles away from the town.

He was in Tengoro Bush with another man called Aiah Abu.

On one occasion Aiah Abu left the bush to search for food when he was captured.

Upon interrogation by the rebels Aiah disclosed to them where he was hiding in a valley under huge rocks.

Based upon the information the rebels received from him they went to the bush where a lot of people were hiding, including the witness who said the rebels captured him and instructed him to stay where he was and if he makes any attempt to move he will be killed.

The witness said he was captured in March after he had spent about two weeks in the bush together with 250

other people who were taken to a Town near Koidu called Kamaia, about three miles away, and that between Koidu and Kamaia the witness said they met a group of men with guns and one of them identified Aiah Abu as a man who had been previously captured but escaped and that this time he was going to kill him.

Eventually the gunman released two shots and Abu dropped on the ground dead.

The witness further testified that there was another group of gunmen dressed in Ecomog Uniform.

He said these men escorted them to Suna Mosque around Hill Station in Koidu, and where they met another group of captives, who expressed gratitude to the 'ECOMOG' for saving their lives. The witness said the leader whom he later came to know as RAMBO instructed them to go to a place called Igbaleh.

On arrival the witness said he counted

fifty corpses on the ground. At this point the prosecution counsel made a submission for a close session of

the trial. He said certain testimony by the witness will disclose his identity.

**FREE
PAUL
KAMARA!
DOWN
WITH
CRIMINAL
AND
SEDITIONOUS
LIBEL
LAWS!**

The witness said rebels entered the town at night after he and his family were already in bed, firing sporadic gun shots.

After the gun shots have subsided in the morning, he said he looked outside and saw people running around in an unorganized manner.

He asked some of the people what was the cause of the panic. Their reply was "those people those people have come."

The witness said he immediately knew that the people they were referring to were the rebels.

He said he then instructed his wife to collect their two children, a boy of twelve and a girl of five and leave the house for a safer place.

The witness further said he decided to

From the Sierra Herald website, <http://www.sierraherald.com/>

Special Court hones sword of justice as Charles Taylor is awaited

The Special Court in Sierra Leone, SCSL, has announced the swearing-in of three new judges that would be sitting on a second trial bench, sending a clear message to all and sundry that justice will be served, no matter what. This recent development has again raised the stakes with some sympathisers of those on trial doing their best to slow down the court's progress, while those wanting to see justice for all those who perished, those who live with horror incidents and those too traumatised to speak of their personal hell, insist that the show must go on. And there has appeared on this scene a group whose sole interest it would seem, is to discredit the Special Court. Members of this group are not often seen in public, but like rats, sewer rats at that, have been busy shuttling from one capital to the other hoping to legitimise their blood-encrusted gains. Some members of that group are reported to have been seen in the US, UK and other Western countries acquiring properties under a myriad of cloaks. And their activities are not only confined to the developed world, movements have been noticed in a number of African countries, principally the Western sector. Meanwhile there are reports that fugitive warlord and war crimes suspect Charles Taylor formerly of Liberia is now receiving counsel in preparation for the inevitable. Facing the Special Court in Sierra Leone. Perhaps even before then, the Nigerian government would be kind enough to publish the names of all those who were on the plane taking Charles Taylor to Nigeria.



United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
28 Jan 2004**

Former President Taylor Remits Money to Liberia

(The New Broom)

- Exiled former President Charles Taylor has reportedly sent US\$150,000 to Liberia for the celebration of his birthday. The money transfer is a violation of the agreement with the international community that restricts him from interfering or influencing activities in Liberia. A full-page add wishing Mr. Taylor a happy birthday signed by relatives appeared in *The Inquirer* today.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Lack of Cooperation from Executive Mansion

- During an exclusive interview on the eve of his departure to Nigeria, Foreign Minister Thomas Yaya Nimley spoke of the lack of coordination and communication between his Ministry and the Executive Mansion in the management of the country's foreign policy.
- Minister Nimley is in Nigeria for the African Union Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

AS KABBAH MAINTAINS DEATH PENALTY...

TRC REPORT IGNORED!

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) has blamed the government of President Kabbah for not acting on the recommendations of the recently released, Truth and Reconciliation Report and which among other things asked for the abolition of the death penalty.

"The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established by the Government, recently submitted its report and among other issues dealt with, recommended the abolition of the death penalty," a LAWCLA release stated. The release further stated that while some other countries have abolished, "this horrendous practice of state justified killings", certain high placed individuals in

the present government continue to advocate for its retention.

The Lawyers further stated that they would like the public to know that they are strongly be-

hind the TRC recommendation which calls for the abolition of the death penalty. "The Special Court which is presently trying individuals alleged to have committed seri-

ous offences will not kill those found guilty," the LAWCLA release said, adding that the continued existence of the death penalty in our law books, clearly conflicts

with Section 20 of the 1991 Multi-Party Constitution.

LAWCLA said the death penalty had never been shown to deter. Contd. Page 2

For di People

Monday January 31, 2005



KABBAH: no more killings sir

DEATH PENALTY

From Front Page crime more than other forms of punishment, and therefore call on government to initiate measure geared to-

wards the abolition of the death penalty.

It could be recalled that State House sources were recently quoted as being strongly behind the

retention of the death penalty. Recently, some soldiers and a few civilians where sentenced to death by hanging for treason in a Freetown

High Court presided over by Justice AB Raschid. FDP recently also gathered that prison authorities have repaired the prison 'killer

machine' the guillotine and properly oiled for the first time in decades. This move by the prison authorities observers say, is ill timed

as ten men are currently awaiting the hang man's noose.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
29 Jan 2004**

01/28/2005 21:22:16 Source: CZECH NEWS AGENCY

Czech dealer probably supplied weapons to Liberian ex-president

PRAGUE, Jan 28 (CTK) - The extradition of Czech arms dealer Dalibor Kopp from Liberian prison to the Czech Republic will probably be delayed, as information emerged in the Liberian press that Kopp seems to have been the main supplier of weapons to the military regime of the country's former president Charles Taylor.

"Liberian authorities have to verify the information now, which is likely to delay Kopp's possible extradition," Czech Justice Ministry spokesman Petr Dimun told CTk today [Friday].

01/29/2005 06:53:46

Ivory Coast official rejects atrocity accusations

ABIDJAN, Jan 29 (AFP) - A top government official in divided Ivory Coast rejected Saturday a report that he had been named in a secret UN document as responsible for serious human rights violations. "I am not concerned by all this," President Laurent Gbagbo's defence and security adviser Kadet Bertin, was quoted as saying by the state-run newspaper *Fraternite Matin*.

Radio France Internationale (RFI) said Friday Bertin's name was among 95 listed as a secret appendix to a highly critical UN report on Ivory Coast revealed last month, along with Gbagbo's influential wife Simone and rebel chief Guillaume Soro.



Bryant Recounts Liberia's Woes And Successes

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 28, 2005

Posted to the web January 28, 2005

Cries Wolf on Status of 1,000 Passports

Sets Up Bulldog Anti-Corruption Task Force

The Chairman of the Transitional Government of Liberia, Charles Gyude Bryant, delivered his second annual message to the nation Monday this week before the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) as required by law.

The state of general security and socio-economic development in Liberia including the status of the DDRR programme are well known and told both by Liberians and international actors here and abroad and no one had really expected that the Chairman would have much to tell the assembly, but he did and more elaborately. In his accounts, according to analysts, Chairman Bryant claimed successes where many have no doubt he has failed and called for the lifting of sanctions when he should have concentrated on how he met or plan to meet the demands of the UN Security Council on the lifting of sanctions on timber and diamonds in the soonest possible time. But there is more: the Chairman claims improvement in fiscal management and yet acknowledged "numerous cries of malpractices," making many to wonder what the true picture is. The Analyst's Staff Writer has been looking at some major aspects of the Chairman's speech.

"The good news is that, despite many challenges, our transitional government remains focused on its mandate and is on course. We have made progress in promoting reconciliation to ensure the maintenance of peace and stability for all our people." This extract was contained in Chairman Bryant's annual message to the NTLA delivered Monday this week.

The message is his second since assuming the gavel of state on October 14, 2003.

In support of the claim of staying on course and being focused, Chairman Bryant told the transitional parliament that 100,000 previously armed Liberians have been disarmed and demobilized, that his government has scored significantly in international and regional relations and attracted a lot of international goodwill for Liberia, that some five Results Focused Transitional Framework (RFTF) projects, including the gainful employment of 10,000 ex-combatants are ongoing outside Monrovia, and that Liberia's right to vote at the UN has be restored after her arrears to the world body was waived through the intervention of friendly countries.

He also recounted how his administration put into place measures that "boost revenue," centralized GOL deposits at the Central Bank of Liberia, liberalized the importation of rice and petroleum products and kept expenditure at anticipated revenue levels thereby generating US \$68.2m in revenue and expending US \$67.8 - a colossal 99.4% consumption that leaves only US \$400,000.00 in deposit.

"Fellow citizens, while we acknowledge there is more to do in placing Liberia in her once influential position in the international community, the steps taken over the past year are very significant, satisfying and praiseworthy. We are firmly on course in the peace process " he said.

He did not say what "more" needed to be done to place Liberia in her place of influence, but noted that another system has been put into place that will allow "greater equity in the payment of all within the approved budget.

One measure in this regards, according to him, is the introduction of a quota system whereby every ministry and agency of government would receive 80% of its monthly appropriations without "the normal hassles within the Ministry of Finance." This is supposed to reduce the "normal hassle within the Ministry of Finance" but it appears it will have to wrestle a parallel system also put into place to streamline expenditure in an economy hailed as "satisfying and praiseworthy." "A Cash Management Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Finance, was established and meets weekly to determine payment priorities based on the availability of cash," he said, leaving analysts in doubt vis-à-vis how the quota system would work if it relies on expenditure that in turn relies heavily on revenue projections and actual income generation per week.

But that seems not a headache or contradiction to Chairman Bryant: " despite known financial and other constraints, the activities of the various ministries of Government were conducted in accordance with their statutory mandate." He listed a new government regulation (designed at the behest of the Ministry of Justice) requiring would-be demonstrators to obtain permit from the Ministry of Justice as a way of curtailing violent approach to addressing grievances as a point typical of the agility of the various agencies of government.

In the same breath that he described the activities of the ministries and agencies of government as praiseworthy performances, Chairman Bryant revealed that public corporations performed below expectation.

"There is a need for government to accelerate its liberalization policy and eventually privatize most public corporations. We believe that such a move will encourage better service, efficiency and accountability, because overall, during the reporting year, most state enterprises have performed disappointingly," he said.

He did not elaborate but recent reports suggests that the Chairman may have referred to the Forestry Development Authority, the Liberia Electricity Corporation, and Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, and the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation, which many say have been in the state of dormancy since corporate activities were resumed more than a year ago though not by their own designs.

Besides acknowledging the failure of some public corporations to measure up to expectations, he said corruption was still largely a major drawback for his administration and outlined plans by which he hoped to eradicate or minimize it.

According to Chairman Bryant, he had directed the Ministry of Justice to conduct "an in-depth investigation into an alleged fraud regarding the issuance of over 1,000 Liberian diplomatic passports." "These passports are being used by internationally known criminals, many of whom are fugitives from justice around the world. We will pursue this investigation to the end, and any and all persons caught involved in this illegal scheme that brings shame and disgrace to our country, and people will be dealt with severely," the Liberian leaders said.

Again he did not elaborate, but a recent International Crisis Group and UN panel reports said certain international fugitives from the Ukraine, the Middle East, and Europe were posing as Liberian consulate officials and diplomats and were carrying official Liberian diplomatic passports.

The reports named one Victor Bout and Leonid Minin, a Ukrainian arms dealer, as those spotted with

Liberian diplomatic passports are airports.

Still on corruption and what to do with it, Chairman Bryant realized the need to do something about corruption in high places.

"During the past year, talk of corruption in government has come to us from many quarters of society. There have been reports of tax fraud, payroll padding, misappropriation of government funds and property, misuse of public office, and the list goes on. Something has to be done," he said.

That something, in his view, is the establishment of a committee that observers already condemned as "a cosmetic approach to a serious matter." He said, "We must take positive action now to ensure a brighter future and a better Liberia for future generations. Because of the negative impact the perception of corruption has on development initiatives in our country, I hereby establish an Executive Task Force on corruption." The mandate of the task force that is supposed to ensure a brighter future and a better Liberia is simply to "identify corrupt officials and practices and inform government and the public." The Executive Task Force on Corruption, ironically is to be chaired by the Director General of Cabinet who is traditionally a confidant of the president, the Contracts & Monopolies Commission as co-chair, and seven other organizations including the Liberia National Bar Association, civil society organizations, human rights organizations, political parties, eminent citizens (not named), Inter-Religious Council, and the Bureau of General Auditing as members.

Whether a task force that is merely to identify corrupt officials and practices and report them can stamp out corruption and ensure a brighter future and a better Liberia is yet to be seen, but analysts are adamant that the force will turn out to be a "bulldog anti-corruption task force" that will only draw sitting fees.

It is not also known why the government decided to take such low-key approach to the issue of corruption that has impeded the remittance of donor assistance to Liberia over the last 11 months.

"But how can anyone be surprised by the approach when the Chairman described the existence of corruption as simply a 'perception' and not a reality.

Chairman has himself being accused of corruption by former customs Commissioner Charles Bennie and recently of diverting state funds to the purchase of a bullet-proof vehicle. So his reaction should not be surprising," said one critic of Bryant's handling of the economy.

He said when Bryant claimed success in expenditure and peace and reconciliation despite UN reports that the central collection system was not working, that the government was overspending and outside the budget, then strong emphasis needed to be placed on what is true picture of life in Liberia.

Meanwhile, Chairman Bryant's revelation that new low petroleum product prices would be announced by Wednesday did not materialize as the pump prices of gasoline and fuel oil remained L\$185 and L\$200 respectively up to 'bed time' last night.

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