

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, April 11, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Sunday, April 10, 2005

Lawmakers: Arrest Liberia's ex-dictator

By Ken Guggenheim

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At a time that President Bush says he is taking a strong stand against tyranny, some members of Congress say he is doing little to bring one of the world's most notorious dictators to justice.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is under indictment by a war-crimes tribunal, accused of crimes against humanity. Yet he continues to live comfortably in exile in Nigeria. International officials say he is meddling in politics in Liberia and elsewhere in West Africa.

In resolutions, floor debates and interviews, legislators of both parties have been urging the Bush administration to press Nigeria to turn over Taylor to the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor, a former warlord, is accused of directing Sierra Leone's notoriously brutal Revolutionary United Front rebels and trafficking in guns and diamonds.

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., plans to introduce a resolution this week calling on Nigeria to transfer Taylor to the international court. The idea is "having Congress take the lead on setting a policy," Royce said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, top Democrat on the subcommittee that appropriates foreign aid, offered a measure last week calling on the United States to use "its voice and vote" at the United Nations to force Taylor's transfer.

"Despite assurances by the State Department more than a year ago that Taylor will ultimately appear before the court, they have made little effort to get him there and, even worse, they seem to have no strategy for doing so," Leahy said.

The State Department says it is working on getting Taylor turned over to the court, but declined to provide details. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said he has discussed Taylor with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other U.S. officials and has received assurances they would pursue the matter.

Still, he said, "I think we can do more."

The congressional efforts follow the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution calling for Taylor to be brought before the court. It also comes as court officials have been lobbying U.S. officials to take a stronger stand.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
8 April 2005**

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Witness accuses former Sierra Leone rebels of forcing cannibalism

FREETOWN, April 8 (AFP) - A prosecution witness in the trial of three former followers of ex-junta chief Johnny Paul Koroma testified Friday how she was kidnapped, raped and forced to "eat a human heart" by rebels in 1999.

The Exclusive, Monday, April 11, 2005.

Not Issa But 55 Witness Tells Court



By Joseph Turay

TF1 263 prosecution witness for the Special Court has exempted the first accused of the RUF, Issa Sesay, as not being the one who led the 200 recruits of RUF fighters who were trained in Kailahun and later trooped to Kono.

The witness, a former combatant who was being cross examined by defence counsel Wayne Jordash representing Issa Sesay, told the court that he was captured by the RUF during the peak of the war by

an RUF commander named Wallace with whom he stayed in Kono doing all domestic work for the latter's girl friend named KI after he had been trained in Kailahun

at Beudu, the former base of Foday Sankoh.

The witness who was denying many portions of his statements which he had given to the prosecution explained to the court that he was trained

in Kailahun and that they were 200 in number when they passed out and that when they were deployed in Kono, Issa Sesay was not the ground commander but one 55 and Ajago who were senior commanders

led the troops. TF1 263 disclosed that they were supplied arms and ammunition before they left and that during the passing out ceremony, it was Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie who wit-

nessed the occasion. "I did not tell the investigators that Issa witnessed the passing out ceremony with "Mosquito," the witness said, adding that he only saw

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Not Issa But 55

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Issa later in Kono at PC ground.

The witness went further to deny most of what was read to him by the defence counsel Jordash from the witness's original statement he made to the investigators.

The witness admitted that he took part in many attacks and that Issa Sesay was introduced to him as a general.

The Exclusive, Friday, April 8, 2005.

Col. Gave Me Human Heart To Eat

By Joseph Turay

The 7th prosecution witness in the ongoing AFRC trial at the Special Court code named TF1

085 has testified that during his captivity with the rebels during the RUF/AFRC junta invasion of
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Col. Gave Me Human Heart To Eat

From front page

Freetown a colonel forcefully gave him human heart to eat. The witness, a woman, told the court that she was at Wellington in the East End of Freetown when the junta forces overran that suburb. She was abducted she told with some other civilians and given arms and ammunitions to carry.

The witness narrated that after she had eaten what her captor referred to as "beef" she with other captives were forced to go along with the rebels to the hills headed for Waterloo. TF1 085 told the court that she saw one Brigadier 55 who she described as tall, fat and fair in complexion, with a walking stick in his hand, dressed in a half cut Renko (country cloth) buba. The witness narrated that his walking stick had a "bomb" in it which he used to point

at and kill people with.

The woman testified how they were given arms to carry to Mammy Dumbuya's Church at Allen Town. There the rebels wanted to kill them, but when they heard the sound of an Alpha jet overflying, everyone ran helter-skelter for cover. "I went and hid myself in a house with other civilians but my captor went in search of me and brought me back to the Church," witness told the court.

Witness said she saw women and girls raped, and some stabbed to death when they refused to sex with the rebels. "My captor asked me to have sex with him. When I refused, he beat me and forcefully had sex with me."

TF1 085 said she was left unconscious and later found herself at a female herbalist's house who gave her a con-

coction to stop the bleeding from her hurting vagina.

Witness further revealed that after she had been treated by the herbalist, her captor came and shot the poor innocent woman to death.

TF1 085 told the court that the commander of this merciless squad was one 55 who she said ordered his boys to bury a suckling mother's child alive because according to 55, the child whose mother had gone to have a rest was crying and that the baby's cry would make the chasing Kamajor force locate their position. "55 was standing on a boulder while addressing us. He addressed the sorrowing distressed mother to laugh while the child was being buried," witness said, recounting that he even ordered his boys to beat her at one time when she was cooking.

Awoko, Fri, April 08, 2008.

"Issa ordered peacekeepers' capture" - witness

By Odilia French
Witness TFI 263 a former rebel, yesterday disclosed in court that the first accused in the ongoing Revolutionary United Front (RUF)- Issa Sesay gave orders for UNAMSIL

peacekeepers to be captured in Makeni. The witness said that he together with other rebels were at their place in an area called 'Water Works' in Makeni, when they heard gunshots very close

to where the peacekeepers have been deployed. He said that they went helter skelter thinking that Issa's boys have again come to raid them as they had earlier come and took away all their

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Issa ordered peacekeepers' capture

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ammunition. "From where I was hiding behind a mango tree, I saw Gen. Issa giving orders for his boys to arrest the UNAMSIL peacekeepers stationed there and to take away all their belongings," he went on to explain. The witness further told the court that the peacekeepers then came out of their camps in shorts and the rebels placed them in trucks and were taken away to Teko Barracks together with all their properties. According to the witness, the next day he went to Teko Barracks in search of his brother who was also a rebel and

upon arrival, he saw the peacekeepers seated on the floor surrounded by rebels. "Gen. Issa and Morris Kallon and other elders whom I did not recognise were present at the scene and the guards were making arrangements for the peacekeepers to be taken to Kono," he said. The witness also in his testimony told the court that on their way to Makeni from the Northern Jungle they set Binkolo on fire. He said that it was one Col. Savage who gave the orders for them to set the town on fire, to light it up as the place was too dark and he cannot see. He revealed that when they arrived in Makeni "we launched an

attack at Teko Barracks, where the ECOMOG force was based which lasted for three days." The witness said that on the fourth day they started looting within the township of Makeni. Explaining further, the witness said that he was at Superman's house when they received information from 55 requesting reinforcement for Freetown. "On my way home the same day I saw two trucks and in one of them was Gen Issa capturing rebels with guns and putting them in these trucks," he said. These trucks, he said, later took off from Issa's place for Freetown, with him onboard. He added that he did not go to Freetown but dropped at Lunsar on the orders of Issa.

The New Storm, Thurs, April 7, 2005.

More Problems For Special Court

The second Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Tuesday April 5 received another shock when all three AFRC indictees, including Ibrahim Bassy Kamara, Alex Tamba Brima and Santigie Kanu boycotted proceedings and preferred to remain in their cells.

Unlike RUF'S Augustine Gbao, who is on record to be the first indictee to boycott proceedings, claiming to "have fundamental difficulties" with the establishment of the court, the AFRC group gave no reason for their decision.

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More Problems For Special Court

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Defence counsels of the three AFRC indictees, in like terms, expressed their clients' decision to absent from court.

The special court will now only rely on Rule 61 (M&II) to continue trying the three indictees as they have all made an ini-

tial appearance and entered a plea of not guilty to all counts levied against them.

During the solemn declaration in the Second Trial Chamber Hon. Justice Benjamin Mutange Itoe, warned them that it is challenging and a daunting task indeed to try those

alleged to bear the greatest responsibility in Sierra Leone.

The action of the AFRC indictees has now completed the chapter that the indictees do not seem to treat the court seriously.

This was the first day of trial following the Easter break.

Awoko, Thurs, April 07, 2005.

Witness reveals how his hand was chopped off

By Odilia French
Witness, TF1-085 while testifying at the special court yesterday recounted how his hand was amputated by rebels during the Jan 6 invasion in Kissy. Led in evidence

by Prosecutor, Sharan Parmar, he said that after his house was set ablaze, he was trying to escape when rebels captured him together with seven other people. According to him, "they searched

our pockets and took away the money we had and then told us that we are going to be killed." He went on, "the seven people in front of me all fell down as they were shot at. My gold plated

wrist watch, which cost about \$300 was taken by one of the commanders who sentenced me to amputation of the hand." The witness said that he pleaded with them but they did not listen to him;

adding that he was then forced to the ground "and one of the rebels took out an axe and chopped off my hand." He further explained that he was taken from Kissy on a wheelbarrow to the

Satellite Clinic at King Harman Road and then to the Connaught Hospital. "At Satellite Clinic, there were a lot of people like me whose hands and feet have been amputated and on my

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Witness reveals how his hand was chopped off

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way to the Connaught Hospital the streets were littered with dead bodies," he said. The witness also told the court how one Akim a man in military uniform threatened that they would turn Kissy into a desert,

"which they did." He said that the rebels sprinkled petrol on the houses and set fire on them and the whole Kissy was on fire. He said that his own house was also set ablaze and had to jump out of the window to escape and hid himself in a banana

plantation. "People's properties which include TVs and anything valuable were taken away. Also people were placed in vehicles and taken away and up to this day I have not seen those people," the witness further revealed.