

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, April 13, 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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FLASHBACK: Combatants in action

Murder Of 100 Civilians At Songo Revealed

By Mohamed Mansaray

Special Prosecution witness TF1-227 testified yesterday that one hundred civilians were murdered at Songo in the Western Rural Area by AFRC member Cpt. Snake when they were retreating from Freetown sometime in 1997.

He told the court that he was at Mile 38 when the al-

leged incident occurred
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How Massacre Took Place In Songo

and that he learnt about it through civilians and one army officer.

The witness was testifying about AFRC/RUF activities after they were forced out of Freetown by ECOMOG during that period.

He was led in evidence by a prosecution counsel, Robert Braun at the Second Trial Chamber presided over by Teresa Doherty at New England in Freetown.

The witness did not say why the civilians were killed by Cpt. Snake. "I received the information from civilians and one soldier," he testified.

Giving his testimony in English from the witness protection box, he told the court that Lt. Col. Keforke also ordered his boys to amputate the limbs of five old women at Mile 38 using axes and machetes and ordered them to go to Freetown and report to President Kabbah. "Mile 38 was under the command of Brig. Bazy," he said.

The witness further testified that two women were also amputated at Mamama which was commanded by Junior Lion but would not say who did the amputations.

He told the court that one of Brig. 55's boys also shot and killed a 17-year-old girl in Blama and went to Makeni. "I did not witness the killing but I heard the shot," he said.

The witness went on to tell the court that another commander, Foraba also murdered a dumb man at Blama, about 28 miles from Freetown, over a lump of sugar.

He testified that he was with Col. Adamu when he was initially abducted in Freetown but that the Colonel handed him over to 'Gun Boat' at Benguema before he (Adamu) proceeded to Makeni.

The witness named 'Gold Teeth', Major Jakal, Co. Sawaneh, Col. Tito, Co. Bioh and RUF Rambo as some commanders who were with them during the journey. He also named Brig. 55, Gun Boat and Tina Musa the wife of SAJ Musa as rebel leaders to whom child-soldiers were attached to at Benguema. "I saw 25 child-soldiers at Benguema between the ages of 10 and 14," he said and named 55 as the overall commander who was in charge of Benguema. He emphasised that child-soldiers belonged to a group described as 'Special Boys Unit.' The witness informed the court that abducted female civilians were protected at Benguema but that a 17-year-old school girl was raped and murdered by Gunboat at the location. Earlier, the witness testified that he was abducted by the rebels when they invaded Freetown during that period. The trials continue.

Awoko. Wednesday April 13th, 2005.

at Special Court **RUF's training explained**

By Odilia French

A witness TF1-141 former member of the Small Boys Unit (SBU) of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) yesterday explained at the Special Court the processes they went through while undergoing training at an RUF base called 'Camp Lion' in Kailahun. Led in evidence by Prosecutor-Sharan Parmar, he said that the first thing that they were taught was how to dismantle and couple up a

gun. The next stage was called 'Alaka'; which he said was a circle-like structure built with only one opening that they have to go through. "The Practical Training Instructors would stand in a row with canes and they would beat us as we pass by," adding that some of the trainees even died in the process, as the pain was too much for them. He went on to explain that there was the 'Monkey Bridge'

process, which was made of stick with barbed wire underneath. "We had to walk on this bridge on our hands and

if you fall down then you are dead," he said. The final stage is the Fire From All Positions (FFAP),

which he said was where they were taught to demonstrate fighting tactics and from there they

would graduate. The witness in his testimony further revealed that while
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RUF's training explained

From Front Page
they were at the training base, he and other boys and girls were injected by 'Combat medics' adding, "I do not know with what medicine, but we slept for three days." He said that senior commanders of the RUF including one C.O. Vandy, Col. Dennis alias 'Ground Monkey' and C.O Issa alias 'Purvae' whose

full name according to him was Issa Sesay. The witness said that Issa Sesay then warned them to do whatever they were told to do at the battleground failing which he would execute them. "After graduating I was sent to Baima together with other SBUs. Whilst we were in Baima Issa and Mike Lamin brought logistics which include 'diamba,

alcohol and strong tobacco that was distributed amongst us," he explained. Earlier in his testimony, the witness who was captured in Kono said that on their way to Kailahun, "big commanders like Morris Kallon, Johnny Paul Koroma (JPK) and his wife were with us." He said that when they arrived at Baoma, Sam Bockarie was there to collect all the government properties they came with.

Rep. Wednesday April 13th 2005

“CDF rogue lied to the Special Court!”



*Sam Hinga Norman
defended...
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Special Court witness called a liar

A key witness against former CDF national co-ordinator chief Sam Hinga Norman at his Special Court trial has been described as a “thief and pathological liar”.

David Salieu, a leading former CDF member, said Albert Nallo, ex-deputy director of CDF operations, gave tainted evidence before the international war-crimes tribunal last month.

In a letter to *Peep!*, Mr Salieu said that Chief Norman was far removed from field operations and had never ordered anyone to commit atrocities.

“While I was with the CDF from 1997 - 2002, especially when we were at Base Zero (CDF HQ)”, I never saw or heard of any such atrocities as revealed by Mr Nallo”.

Mr Salieu alleged that Chief Norman worked through a chain of command which included the CDF War Council - composed mainly of Paramount chiefs and respected elders”, a council of initiators “who prepared fighters for war” and a “directorate... of directors for war, administration, communication, logistics and transport etc”. Mr Salieu said that Mr Nallo, as deputy director of op-

erations, was disciplined for looting. “In order to justify himself and disgrace the CDF he has told... blatant lies to the Special Court” Mr Salieu said. He added that Nallo, a “self-confessed murderer”, should himself face trial for his ‘secret doings’ which he gave evidence on before the Special Court.

The News. Wednesday April 13th, 2005.

Bringing Charles Taylor to Justice: Pressure Mounting On Bush

Things aren't looking good for the former Liberian dictator, Charles Taylor these days. Daily Observer Editor-in-Chief Rodney D. Sieh, looks at the latest wave of efforts being mounted to transfer the rebel-leader turned president over to the International Court. U.S. President George Bush is being accused of not doing enough to bring Taylor to justice. Charles Taylor must be sweating at his exile residence in Calabar, Nigeria. And he should have every reason to be.

This week, the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa, Rep. Ed Royce, R. Calif. will be introducing a resolution calling on Nigeria to transfer Taylor to the International Court. The move by Royce comes amid reports that several U.S. lawmakers have been pressing the issue over the last few weeks for Taylor to be brought to justice. Many lawmakers have gone even further in accusing President Bush of not doing enough to bring the former warlord to justice.

The European Parliament has gone a step ahead of their American counterparts and has already approved a resolution calling for Taylor to be brought before the court. Last week the Associated Press reported that Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, a high-ranking Democrat on the subcommittee that funds foreign aid, offered a measure calling on the United States to use "its voice and vote" at the United Nations to force Taylor's transfer.

\$2 Million Reward

This was the second time in recent years that Leahy had brought the

Taylor issue to the forefront of the U.S. lawmaking body. In 2003, Leahy was very vocal in his plea for Taylor to be brought to justice and suggested a \$2 million price reward for anyone who brings Taylor before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Leahy described then, why he felt it was so important for West Africa, as well as the cause of international justice, to bring Charles Taylor before the Special Court, according to his statement before the U.S. Senate in October 2003.

"Since his exile to Nigeria, press reports have revealed that Charles Taylor continues to try to foment chaos and instability in Liberia. There is no doubt that he wants to return, and will do so if given the opportunity, according to Leahy's statement. Leahy said at the time that it was important that Taylor appears before the Special Court. This needs to happen immediately. Allowing him to remain in Nigeria is wrong. It is impeding peace and prosperity in a region that has endured tremendous suffering over the past decade," said the statement.

In revisiting the issue last week, Leahy said that "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 in a statement.

Pressing the matter

According to the Associated Press, the U.S. 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. Taylor is under indictment by a war crimes tribunal, accused of crimes against humanity, notably for those meted against his own Liberian people and those in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Taylor, who started a rebel movement in Liberia in 1989, was elected president of Liberia in July of 1997, garnering over 75 percent of the vote in an election that international observers deemed fair. Taylor's ascent to power, and the election of fellow National Patriotic Party candidates to a majority of legislative seats in the National Assembly, marked what many hoped would be the end of seven years of civil strife.



WHERE DOES YOUR BUSINESS

Congress Ready for Taylor

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

April 12, 2005

Posted to the web April 12, 2005

Presses Bush To Pressurize Nigeria

Passes New Resolution Soon

The hopes of many Liberians and those who believe that the way to wipe impunity from the African political culture is to try and punish former heads of government who bore the heaviest responsibilities for crimes against humanity including torture, rape, and other crimes have since dissipated in the wake of Nigeria's persistence that it will not extradite Taylor to Sierra Leone to face trial.

They had thought the indictment of Taylor coupled with subsequent effort to arraign him before the special court in Freetown was the beginning of a new dawn in crime punishment in domestic and regional politics.

But that had not seemed to be working as Nigeria continues to insist, to the despair of many, that only an elected government in Liberia will have Taylor for whatever purpose.

But as The Analyst's Staff Writer reports through the perspectives of the Seattle Times hopes may be rekindled now that the U.S. Congress has stepped into the limelight, vowing to have Taylor prosecuted before the Freetown court.

The Seattle Times reported, April 10, 2005 that the U.S. Congress is working out measures to force Nigeria to release Taylor to the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Congress said it is taking the step because the Bush administration was not moving fast enough to ensure that Taylor was brought before the Freetown court to face the 17-count indictment slammed against him in May 2003 in Accra.

At the time of the indictment, Taylor had traveled to Ghana to open a conference of Liberian stakeholders aimed at ending more than six years of bloodletting in Liberia.

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, the Seattle Times noted.

"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,"

said Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, a top Democrat on the subcommittee that appropriates foreign aid.

Senator Leahy 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.

Another congressman, Representative Ed Royce, a Republican from California said he 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.

The State Department says it is working on getting Taylor turned over to the court, but declined to provide details.

Many congressmen and congressional groupings believe the administration is not moving fast.

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.

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.

But Republic Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire 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."

Taylor, a former warlord, is accused of directing Sierra Leone's notorious brutal Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and trafficking in guns and diamonds.

He has since denied the charges and dispatched a team of Liberian lawyers not to file returns to the court, but to ironically challenge the jurisdiction of the court over a sitting president of a sovereign country.

Having lost the jurisdiction argument, Taylor reclined into the arms of Obasanjo who insists he is honoring an international agreement by keeping Taylor from facing the Freetown tribunal.

Then began a marathon effort to arraign Taylor before the tribunal that includes threats by the Nigerian labour union to sue the federal government, the legal bar association of Nigeria, the consortium of human rights organizations in Liberia, and reportedly a covert operation of the U.S. government to abduct Taylor and take him to Freetown.

In a recent interview with the Nigerian Oration magazine, former first lady Jewel-Howard Taylor called efforts to extradite Taylor unfair, arguing that he was already convicted in Freetown and his arraignment was a Kangaroo arrangement intended to murder him.

She said Taylor was innocent of any wrongdoing and was being hunted for speaking out against the interest of world powers, including the U.S. and Britain at several international fora.

She did not state the issue with which Taylor may be at variance with Washington and London, but insisted that the crimes for which Mr. Taylor was wanted in Freetown did not occur in Liberia, indicating Taylor's innocence.

According to her, Taylor's involvement with RUF was purely a military effort aimed at creating a buffer zone along the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border.

While she remained silent on the issue of gunrunning, one of the charges against her husband, Mrs. Taylor revealed that Taylor received as gifts more diamonds than he actually needed and therefore did not have to smuggle what he had in abundance.

While many say her arguments were those of a smug woman defending the indefensible, Jewel believes that Taylor would get justice only in The Hague.

Meanwhile, the current 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 strong stand.

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(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Mr. ROYCE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Whereas on January 16, 2002, as requested by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1315 (2000), an agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the United Nations to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone;



Whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone was given the power to prosecute persons who have committed and “bear the greatest responsibility” for war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and certain crimes under Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone during that country’s brutal civil war during the period after November 30, 1996;

Whereas on June 4, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment issued on March 3, 2003, against Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, charging him with seventeen counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law relating to his role in directly supporting and materially, logistically, and politically abetting the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its actions, including its notorious, widespread, and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the indictment of Charles Taylor includes charges of terrorizing civilians and subjecting civilians to collective punishment, mass murder, sexual slavery and rape, abduction and hostage taking, severe mutilation, including the cutting off of limbs and other physical violence and inhumane acts, enslavement, forced labor, forced military conscription, including forced conscription of children, theft, arson, looting, and pillage, and widespread attacks upon the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and humanitarian workers by the Revolutionary United Front combatants;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front was notorious for brutally murdering and torturing civilians, including the



amputation of limbs with machetes, and by carving “RUF” onto the bodies of thousands of victims, including women and children;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front made widespread use of abducted children as laborers and soldiers and forced many of the abducted children to perform severe human rights abuses, constituting a serious crime under the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Whereas on August 11, 2003, Charles Taylor departed Liberia for Calabar, Nigeria, where he was granted asylum and, according to press reports, agreed to end his involvement in Liberian politics;

Whereas in September 2003 the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria warned Taylor that it would “not tolerate any breach of this condition and others which forbid him from engaging in active communications with anyone engaged in political, illegal or governmental activities in Liberia”;

Whereas the United States, Nigeria, and other concerned nations have contributed extensive political, human, military, financial, and material resources toward the building of peace and stability in Liberia and Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone has contributed to developing the rule of law in Sierra Leone and is deserving of support;

Whereas on March 17, 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General reported to the United Nations Security Council that Charles Taylor’s “former military commanders and business associates, as well as members of his political party, maintain regular contact with him and are planning to undermine the peace process” in Liberia;



Whereas David Crane, Chief Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, stated: “Unless and until Charles Taylor is brought to justice, there will be no peace. Charles Taylor is a big cloud hanging over Liberia. He is still ruling the country from his house arrest in Calabar. His agents remain influential in the country.”;

Whereas on March 22, 2005, Jacques Klein, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia, stated: “Charles Taylor is a psychopath and a killer . . . He’s still very much involved [in and is . . .] intrusive in Liberian politics.”; and

Whereas Charles Taylor remains a serious present and continuing threat to Liberian and West African subregional political stability, security, and peace, and to United States interests in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress urges the Government of the
3 Federal Republic of Nigeria to expeditiously transfer
4 Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic
5 of Liberia, to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Si-
6 erra Leone to undergo a fair and open trial for war crimes,
7 crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of
8 international humanitarian law.

