

**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:**

Thursday, April 14, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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# AFRC-RUF REBELS - PROTECTED ME'

## -SPECIAL COURT WITNESS

*By Mohamed Mansaray*

*Special Court Prosecution witness, TF1-227 has told the court that he felt secured in rebel controlled territories after he was abducted in the Western Area sometime in 1999.*

"The rebels did not do them much harm," he said. The witness was giving evidence under cross-examination by Alex Tamba Brima's defence counsel, Glenna Thompson at the Second Trial Chamber presided over by Teresa Doherty at New England in Freetown this week. The witness who had earlier described himself as a teacher was responding to a question from counsel on why he chose to go to Makeni and not Freetown during that period. He testified that he was persuaded by a friend of his

to go to Makeni.

Asked which rebel faction was in control of Makeni in 1999, the witness replied that he did not know but that he learned from his cousin in Freetown that the war had intensified in Makeni. "I decided to go to Makeni because I knew there was going to be a ceasefire," he told the court. The witness admitted under cross-examination that he incorrectly told the office of the Prosecution when he was making statement that Lt. Col. Keforke amputated eight (8) civilians at Mile 38 during the AFRC/RUF pull out from Freetown during that period.

He further admitted that he was also wrong in stating that five (5) civilians were amputated at Mile 38 on the orders

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### Special Court Witness Says Rebels Did Them No Harm

of Lt. Col. Keforke during evidence in chief.

The witness told the court under cross-examination by Ms. Thompson that the actual number of people amputated at Mile 38 by the Lt. Col. was seven (7).

On the alleged killing of a 17-year-old girl about 28 miles from Freetown by one of Brig. 55's boys, the witness identified the town where the alleged incident occurred during his examination in chief as Blama/Briama. Under cross-examination however, the witness identified the town as Bramaya and further informed the court that he learnt about the name of the controversial town from the villagers. Although the name of the town was not found on the map of Sierra Leone, the witness testified that the town is domi-

nated by the Temnes and that it is located near the town of Grimanakolo.

The witness who appeared to be under some amount of pressure said: "The important thing is not the name of the town but what happened there," to which counsel replied that it was a matter for the judges and not for him (witness) to decide.

The witness was led in evidence earlier by a prosecution counsel, Robert Braun and he gave his testimony in English from the witness protection box.

He was testifying about the activities of the rebels during that period.

The trials continue.

*The News (Nigeria) - AAGM April 12, 2005*

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The News (Nigeria) - AAGM

April 12, 2005

## TAYLOR IN HOT WATER AGAIN

...Congressman Presses for Extradition

- Anytime exiled former President Charles Taylor hears about transferring him to the international court in neighboring Sierra Leone, a feeling of uneasiness usually creeps into his mind.

This week, the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa, Rep. Ed Royce, Republican of California, will be introducing a resolution calling on Nigeria to transfer Taylor to the International Court.

The move by Royce comes amidst 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.

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 ferment 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 emphasized in a statement.

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, a Republican hard-liner 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 ascend to power, and the election of fellow National Patriotic Party candidates to a majority of legislative seats in the National Legislature, marked what many hoped would be the end of seven years of civil strife.

It is not clear what impact Royce's resolution will have on this latest attempt to bring Taylor before the International Court. But subcommittee hearings often lead to legislative initiatives and Royce's voice has been a vocal one on issues concerning Africa over the years.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia  
(UNMIL)

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

04/13/2005 06:23:37

**Man arrested for recruiting child soldiers to fight for Ivory Coast**

MONROVIA, April 13 (AFP) - United Nations forces have arrested a former Liberian rebel leader on suspicion of recruiting child soldiers to fight for the government of neighbouring Ivory Coast against its own rebels, diplomats said.

Named as Adama Keita, he was arrested Tuesday at Zwedru in southern Liberia as he was about to cross the border with several children in a vehicle registered in Ivory Coast. One diplomatic source said Keita, a leader of the former Movement for Democracy in Liberia, left the country after a transitional government was installed in Monrovia in October 2003 but had resurfaced some two months ago.

**International Clips on West Africa**

04/13/2005 12:41:37

**Mbeki awaits response after ruling on key Ivory Coast sticking point**

CAPE TOWN, April 13 (AFP) - South African President Thabo Mbeki is awaiting a response from Ivory Coast's warring factions to his ruling on a key sticking point in the peace process concerning elections, the government spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, Joel Netshitenzhe, did not divulge details of Mbeki's decision. He said Mbeki, appointed mediator by the African Union (AU), was "supposed to make a determination on the eligibility in order to stand for presidential elections" that are to take place in October in the west African nation. A contentious article in the constitution which barred main opposition leader Alassane Ouattara from the last presidential polls is one of the key sticking points in earlier peace deals brokered by Ivory Coast's former ruler France and a west African regional bloc.

04/13/2005 10:15:58

**Ivory Coast rebels host disarmament talks with government**

ABIDJAN, April 13 (AFP) - Government and rebel military commanders in Ivory Coast are to discuss resuming a stalled disarmament process Thursday in the rebel stronghold of Bouake following a new South African-brokered peace accord.

The first meeting between the two sides for five months comes amid charges that both are recruiting mercenaries, including child soldiers, to continue their conflict dating back to September 2002. South African officers will attend the talks in Bouake.

Source: Human Rights Watch

## **West Africa: Roving warriors recruited for new conflicts**

(New York, April 13, 2005) -- Thousands of young men and boys, many of whom have committed atrocities while fighting in West Africa's brutal civil wars, face re-recruitment into the region's emerging conflicts, Human Rights Watch said in a new report released today. International efforts to disarm these fighters must provide them with alternatives to war. Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, two countries marked by growing political instability, are the current theaters into which these young fighters are being drawn.

The lives of these "regional warriors" are documented in a 66-page report, "Youth, Poverty and Blood: The Lethal Legacy of West Africa's Regional Warriors." Based on interviews with some 60 former fighters who have crossed borders to fight in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, the report explores the forces driving the phenomenon of cross-border mercenary activity in West Africa.

Concord Times. Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

# RUF pleads to Kofi Annan for detainees' release

*By Joseph Kamanda*

Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) has reportedly sent an appeal to United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan through his Deputy Special Representative in Sierra Leone, Daudi Mwakawago to help persuade President Kabbah to effect the release of 68 members of the Revo-

lutionary United Front (RUF) currently detained at the Pademba Road prisons.

The said detainees were arrested five years ago in connection with a demonstration at Foday Sankoh's residence that claimed the lives of innocent civilians on May 8, 2000.

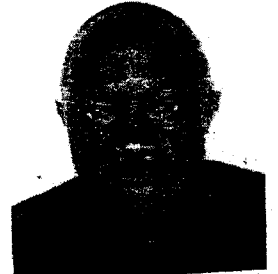
"RUF wants the intervention

of Secretary General Kofi Annan and other UN organization based in the country to advocate for a speedy trial as well as the release of the 68 RUF prisoners," RUF's Secretary General, Jonathan Kposowa told Concord Times.

He says the RUF detainees have made over 60 appearances in court but their cases are not been heard.

"They have been incarcerated for five years now and were only charged to court when the State of Emergency was lifted to allow the RUF take part in the last general elections," he says, adding that the implementation of Lome Peace Accord made provision for sincerity but the 68 RUF members are facing 81 count charges of conspiracy, murder, shooting with intent amongst others.

"They are still held in prison whilst five of them have died in detention," Kposowa says and adds, "as unfortunate victims of



*Gbessay Kanu, RUF chairman*  
peace, we're pleading with the United Nations to help us reconcile with this nation and for President Kabbah to see reason to effect the release of our brothers who are currently held in detention for 5 years now."

Kposowa said they've made several representations to President Kabbah on the issue but he referred to Vice President Solomon Berewa to order their release.



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## Report: Disarmed fighters recruited

### Thousands join emerging West African conflicts, group says

**MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) -- Thousands of fighters recently disarmed from West African civil wars are being recruited into emerging regional conflicts, lured by promises of pay and looting as ill-funded efforts to return them to civilian life fail, human rights activists said Wednesday.**

"War has become the only economic route for thousands of youth," says the report, called "Roving Warriors," from New York-based Human Rights Watch. "Breaking the cycle of atrocities in West Africa depends on ... providing them with alternatives to war."

Disarmed fighters from Liberia, Congo, Rwanda and Sierra Leone have told The Associated Press that they have few choices.

In eastern Congo, where fighters have killed, raped and mutilated thousands of people in a years-old ethnic conflict, members of a Hema militia disarmed earlier this month complained that they could either take US\$50 (euro37.60) from the United Nations or join the army.

"Fifty dollars isn't even enough for transport home," said Isanga Musianda, noting the army pays only US\$12 (euro9) a month. "We want to be taught a trade so we can support our families. How are we supposed to find work?"

In Liberia, 106,000 fighters were demobilized between December 2003 and October last year, but only 19,000 have been enrolled in formal or vocational schools, said Moses Garbo, head of the Liberian Disarmament Commission.

"Up until three weeks ago there was a shortfall of about US\$58 million [euro45 million] to execute the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants," he said. Since then the United Nations has made US\$36 million (euro28 million) available, he said.

Ex-fighter Jenkins Kollie feels cheated: "We laid down our guns because we were carried away by promises that we were going to be better off after the war ...

"Going into the Ivory Coast to fight is bad, but the situation that has prompted this is also bad," said the 28-year-old who demobilized in December 2003 and received US\$300 (euro232), but never got the carpentry training he was promised.

Human Rights Watch said its report was based on interviews with some 60 former fighters who have crossed borders to fight in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Guinea.

It details their initial recruitment and submersion into "a world of brutality, physical hardship, forced labor and drug abuse" from which they emerged as "fighters willing to rape, abduct, mutilate and kill civilians." All had fought with groups that committed gross human rights violations that went largely unpunished, it says.

"When the youth interviewed were re-recruited into subsequent wars, all were unemployed or living a precarious economic existence, and were motivated by the promise of both financial compensation and the opportunity to loot."

The current theaters for cross-border mercenary activity are Ivory Coast and Guinea, both countries marked by growing instability,



the report says.

Among those recruited to fight in Guinea, about half said they were approached by commanders claiming to represent a fledgling insurgency and the other half by supporters of Guinean President Lansana Conte.

Guinean officials have denied recent reports of an attempted coup against Conte. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also denied reports of a frontier gunbattle last week between Guinean and Ivorian troops, saying there was a shootout near the border but inside Ivory Coast that did not involve Guineans.

Last month, Human Rights Watch said it interviewed Liberians who said hundreds of recently demobilized fighters, including children, had been recruited to fight in Ivory Coast since October, and that recruitment stepped up in March. Those interviewed said they were recruited by Ivorian soldiers and crossed the border to fight with pro-government militias. The Ivory Coast army has denied it is recruiting foreigners.

Human Rights Watch said the only way forward was to ensure demobilized fighters have opportunities to live gainful civilian lives.

"Half-measures ensure that the international community will face new calls for intervention in the region's conflicts, long after its too late to prevent new atrocities," it warned.

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**Find this article at:**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/africa/04/13/roving.warriors.ap/index.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



## Mercenaries 'fuel W African wars'

**Young veterans of West Africa's wars are being recruited to fight new conflicts across the region, according to a report by Human Rights Watch.**

The New York-based group says poverty is forcing thousands of young men and boys to become mercenaries.

It says fighters have been moving freely between conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast.

The report warns war will continue to be seen as an economic opportunity unless alternatives are provided.

The study, entitled Youth, Poverty and Blood: The Lethal Legacy of West Africa's Regional Warriors, is based on interviews with about 60 veterans of West African conflicts.

### Fighting to survive

It says many of the migrant fighters began their military careers as child soldiers, abducted to fight in wars, and many are guilty of war crimes and atrocities.

**War has become the only economic route for thousands of youth**

Peter Takirambudde  
Human Rights Watch

A man who began fighting with a rebel group in Sierra Leone is quoted as saying he was able to kill civilians in Liberia "because no-one knew me there - they weren't my people".

Economic hardship and the failure of disarmament efforts have led the men to fight for money and looting opportunities in fresh conflicts further afield, the report says.

A veteran of several wars in West Africa said he fought to support his parents.

"The commanders said we could pay ourselves, which meant looting," he told Human Rights Watch.

### Hardship and brutality

The report says international efforts to disarm fighters and bring them back into society have only met with partial success.

"The fact that war has become the only economic route for thousands of youth points to serious failings by their countries' governments," said Peter Takirambudde, Human Rights Watch's Africa director.

Corruption among commanders and disarmament officials in Sierra Leone and Liberia is partly to blame, the report says.

New governments in these countries are said to have failed to correct many of the problems that had fuelled the original conflicts - inequity, warlord-ism and weak law and order.

More than two-thirds of the former combatants from Liberia interviewed by Human Rights Watch said they had received offers to fight in Guinea and the Ivory Coast within the last year.

The report says the migrant fighters were victims - as well as perpetrators - of human rights abuses, unable to escape lives of brutality, hardship and drug abuse.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4438497.stm>

Published: 2005/04/13 10:39:28 GMT

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## International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Prevent impunity – train doctors and lawyers together!

Media Release, 5 Apr 2005

In connection with the 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights currently taking place in Geneva, the issue of torture and the plight of victims of torture have been a central part of the agenda.

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) organized a round table dialogue on the topic "How to prove torture?". The purpose of the meeting was to enhance the dialogue and the cooperation between doctors and legal officials to find useful practical means to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of torture in order to stop impunity.

Impunity often prevails due to difficulties in providing useful evidence and proper documentation.

Drawing upon her extensive experience from her former position as judge at the Supreme Court of Kosovo and her present position as judge at the Appeals Chamber of the **Special Court of Sierra Leone**, Renate Winter stressed the importance of securing proper evidence of torture that will make it possible for the judges to condemn the perpetrators. Lack of condemnation of perpetrators is not always due to a lack of political will, but often a question of the evidence not being preserved or presented in proper ways.

Dr. Frances Lovemore, Medical Director of the Amani Trust in Zimbabwe, and Dr. Inge Genefke, founder and Ambassador of the IRCT, explained that a variety of techniques have been developed over the last decades for documenting physical as well as mental torture. The perpetrators use more and more complex methods of torture to prevent leaving physical evidence and thus the techniques for documenting the torture must be constantly developing.

The need for proper documentation is acknowledged by doctors and lawyers and the necessary documentation techniques are available. What is needed is training. Doctors need to be trained in the documentation techniques, while the lawyers and judges need training in using this medical documentation. Victims witnessing in court need to be treated in an appropriate way in order not to increase the trauma suffered.

Guidelines regarding effective investigation and documentation of torture are laid down in the Istanbul Protocol, endorsed by the UN. IRCT Secretary-General Brita Sydhoff presented the current work of the IRCT in five countries training doctors and lawyers together in using this instrument. This project will expand in yet more countries using the experience gathered so far and the valuable input from the World Medical Association (WMA), the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT), Redress Trust and Physicians for Human Rights USA (PHR-USA). The success of the process is also due to the support

and implementation by national governments and the generous support of the European Commission and the Danish government.

The resolution on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is the political instrument of the UN Human Rights Commission in addressing the problem of torture. Due to an apparent increase in the use of torture worldwide in recent years, there is a deep need for affirming the absolute prohibition against torture Ð also in connection with the fight against terrorism.

The torture victims' right to restitution, redress and rehabilitation are more acute than ever. The IRCT global network of rehabilitation centres is certainly expecting that these obligations are reaffirmed and strongly expressed in the resolutions, statements as well as financial obligations to the victims. Only when the victims' right to rehabilitation, legal and social restitution are fulfilled can impunity end.