

**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, April 15, 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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Salone Times. Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## ***Defence Angry With Witness At Special Court***

***By Mohamed Mansaray***

***Defence counsel for the first RUF accused Issa Sesay, Wayne Jordash protested yesterday against the responses of Special Court prosecution witness TF1-141 during cross-examination.***

Mr. Jordash was cross-examining the witness at the First Trial Chamber presided over by Benjamin Itoe, New England in Freetown. He had earlier testified about RUF activities in the Eastern Region. Counsel was angry that the witness refused during cross-examination to mention dates of specific events that he saw between 1998 and 2000.

The witness who described himself as former RUF-

combatant had testified that he was abducted in Koidu sometime in 1998 by RUF rebels led by Col. Issa Sesay alias 'Purvae' and first taken to a place called Guinea Base from where he was taken to the training base at Bunumbu in Kailahun district.

The witness testified under cross-examination that he did not know how long they were at Guinea base. Asked for how long he stayed at the training base in Kailahun, he told the court that they stayed at the base for as long as was necessary for them to acquire training. "Our bosses initially told us that we were going to train for nine months but I don't

**SEE BACK PAGE**

### ***Witness Angers Defence Lawyer***

know how long we were there for," he said, adding that he also did not remember whether they left the base in the rainy season or dry season.

Asked which year he left the training base, the witness said that he could not remember either. "I was an active combatant and I did not have a pen nor a paper to write down accounts and in any case I was not an adjutant to count days," the witness said in what appeared to be an angry mood.

The witness had also testified that they attacked ECOMOG and Kamajors in Daru during which he and one Foday alias 'Malaeka' stabbed an old man to death but would not say when the attack took place under cross-examination.

The witness denied telling the prosecution under cross-examination that Sam Bockarie left Buedu to go to Liberia in 1999.

"Without telling the dates of specific alleged crimes brought against the accused for command responsibility, the defence is handicapped to rebut the prosecution allegations," Mr. Jordash protested.

In his testimony earlier, the witness told the court that they were injected with a certain liquid that made them unconscious for three days completely when they arrived at the training base.

The witness was led in evidence by a prosecution counsel, Sharan Parmar and he gave his testimony in Krio from the witness protection box.

The trials continue.

Awoko. Friday April 15, 2005.

## Witness lied about his age

*By Odilia French* Defence Counsel for Issa 14 at the time of his  
Witness TFi-141 former Sesay, Wayne Jordash capture in 1998 said that  
child soldier in the that he lied about his age he did not understand the  
Revolutionary United to Special Court purpose of the interview  
Front (RUF) movement investigators because he at first, "as I was afraid."  
yesterday disclosed at the did not want to miss any He said that he decided  
Special Court during benefits. The witness to tell the investigators  
cross-examination by who testified that he was  
*Contd. Page 2*

## Witness lied about his age

*From Front Page* told that only 18yrs and money at that time?" he  
that he was 18yrs at the above are to benefit from the asked, "I had no parents and  
time of the interview, which package," he maintained. It I needed care that was all."  
was in 2003 so that he would he added. Further questions  
receive the benefits, after the that he told the were put to the witness in  
whole exercise if there were investigators he was 18 yrs connection with the dates to  
any. "When I disarmed in at that time. However, which he answered that he  
2000 I did not receive any when questioned by Mr. do not know. The witness  
thing from the Disarmament Jordash whether he did it told the court that he was an  
Demobilisation and for money, the witness said active combatant and was  
and Reintegration (DDR) "I did not do it for money. not keeping records of the  
program because we were What do I have to do with dates."

For di People. Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

# AFRC killed

# 47 captives

## ...witness tells Court

PROSECUTION WITNESS TF1-256 yesterday informed the Special Court about how the AFRC captured 47 people, took them to a bush where they were killed. He said when he and his brother later went to the bush, to fetch sticks, they saw seven corpses and his son, Santigie, was among those killed.

by SU  
THORONKA

On seeing the sight, the witness said he did not weep aloud for fear of being manhandled or killed by the same soldiers. The remaining 40 people no one know their whereabouts up till now, the witness testified.

He named one Abu Kanu, the soldier he

said led the 47 people into the bush, adding that there were 100 soldiers in all but that he could only remember Abu Kanu's name. The following day, the witness said, the soldiers came back to the garden and captured one man called 'Canabie'.

"A rope was tied round his waist and beaten mercilessly through out the evening he was cap-

tured."

The beating, the witness said, continued in the morning and was later taken along the road by the soldiers and since then, the witness said he did not see 'Canabie'.

He further told the court that those that were captured including three women, one Yeabu whom he said was his brother's daughter were all confined to the garden. The witness said Yeabu later confessed to him that 'Yellow Man', the soldier who captured her raped her continuously.



For di People. Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## Five People Were Amputated

PROSECUTION WITNESS TF1-227 at the trial of the AFRC accused, told the court that one Keforkel ordered the amputation of five civilianSand advised them to go to Freetown and report to Tejan Kabbah.

The witness said he was in Brama for about four weeks but because Ecomog was advancing towards Brama, he and other civilians left for Mamamah and finally arrive at Mile 38 along the Freetown Masiaka highway.

He said he was informed that one captain 'Snake' had killed about 100 people at Songo while Junior 'Lion' was in charge of Mamamah. "On our way to Mile 38, we came across two people whose hands were amputated, a woman and a man in plain civilian dress", the witness said. He

by SU  
**THORONKA**

From Back Page  
people using axes, cutlasses and mortar.

After two weeks at Mile 38, the witness said he and other civilians travelled to a village called Magbani as a result of the rapid advancement of the Ecomog troops.

After three days at

Magbani he said, Bazy advised the civilians who were 75 in number and 35 soldiers to cross the river to a village called Magbaray.

At Magbaray, the witness continued, ten of them occupied a house in the village which only 100 and seventy soldiers.

said there were 80 of them, all civilians who travelled from Mamamah to Mile 38 but that thirteen of them stayed behind in an unfinished house. Bazy, whom the witness said belonged to the AFRC, was in charge of Mile 38 but that Jokal and Keforkel, a Lieutenant Colonel were with Bazy. He said as the Ecomog troops were advancing towards Mile 38, Keforkel ordered the amputation of the old

Contd. Page Two

Brigadier Bazy, the witness said was in charge of the soldiers who among them were Sawaneh, Colonel Tito, Mbayoh and Junior 'Lion'.

He said some civilians were engaged in domestic chores, while others were engaged in military training.

# The New Republic

## WHITE HOUSE WATCH

Charles at Large

by Ryan Lizza

Post date: 04.14.05

Issue date: 04.25.05

Imagine for a moment that, in 2003, Saddam Hussein had accepted one of those offers of exile floated by Middle Eastern leaders to avert war. Imagine further that, rather than retiring in anonymous luxury to some oil emirate, Saddam immediately began to violate the terms of his expulsion by meddling in Iraqi politics, setting the stage for his eventual return. Then imagine that he was found to have orchestrated an assassination attempt on, say, the leader of Qatar. Imagine that all of this was happening while a U.N. court backed and funded by the United States indicted Saddam on 17 counts of crimes against humanity. Imagine that the court investigators had credibly established Saddam's links to Al Qaeda. Finally, imagine that, when a bipartisan coalition in Congress demanded Saddam be turned over to that war crimes court, the Bush administration simply ignored them, choosing instead to protect Saddam.

Yes, this all sounds insane. The Bush administration doesn't let Al Qaeda-linked dictators slink off into cushy exile where they can set up shop and destabilize whole regions of the world. But this is exactly what is happening in West Africa. Substitute Liberia for Iraq and Charles Taylor for Saddam Hussein, and this nightmare is reality.

It's hard to remember now, but the conflict in Liberia seized the Bush White House for several weeks in the summer of 2003. A civil war threatened to destroy the country's capital and kill many civilians, and President Bush was under intense international pressure to do something about it. In the end, the administration helped broker a deal whereby Liberian president Charles Taylor, a war criminal indicted by a U.S.-funded international tribunal known as the Special Court for Sierra Leone, was allowed to flee to Nigeria, provided he promise to stay out of Liberian politics. (At the time, the Bush administration was cagey about its role in the asylum deal, but, last year, Howard Jeter, the American ambassador to Nigeria during the crisis, told Congress that Nigeria "acted with our full knowledge and concurrence.") In Liberia, American soldiers and eventually a U.N. peacekeeping mission stabilized the country and set it on a fragile path to peace and democracy. Taylor settled into a seaside villa in Calabar, Nigeria.

During some 14 years in Liberia, as warlord and then as president, Taylor fueled wars across four countries, which cost hundreds of thousands of lives and introduced the world to horrors like "the small boys unit" and the widespread dismemberment of innocents. His rebels pillaged Sierra Leone and raided its diamond fields. He turned Liberia into a vast criminal enterprise and helped Al Qaeda convert its cash into diamonds in the months before September 11. Today, he is the only indicted mass murderer in the world who lives freely and openly. The genocidaires of Rwanda are, in fits and starts, being brought to justice. Slobodan Milosevic sits in a cell at The Hague. Saddam Hussein is jailed in Iraq. It is only in West Africa that the international community, with the approval of the Bush administration, has allowed a war criminal of such scale to live untouched by the law.

When Bush acquiesced to Taylor's asylum deal in 2003, State Department officials promised critics of the agreement that Taylor's exile was simply a temporary step in bringing him to justice, insisting that the soft landing for Taylor was the only way to avert catastrophe in Liberia. "First we'll get him out of Liberia, then we'll get him to the Court," an official in the Department's African Affairs Bureau told me at the time. But it has been almost two years, and--according to sources at the war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, human rights groups, and Republicans and Democrats in Congress who monitor the issue--the Bush administration has made no effort whatsoever to get Taylor out of Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Taylor has brazenly flouted the terms of his exile. Last April, he gave an hour-long TV interview in Nigeria in which he said he would like to return to Liberia. He has been in regular contact via e-mail and telephone with his former aides. He is helping several parties that will compete in the Liberian elections scheduled for October. Last August, the United Nations had to slap a travel ban on several Liberians because they were acting as couriers for Taylor. A March 17 U.N. report noted, "[F]ormer military commanders and business associates, as well as members of [Taylor's] political party, maintain regular contact with him and are planning to undermine the peace process." Last month, Jacques Klein, the U.N. special representative in Liberia, told NPR that Taylor's former allies are simply awaiting his return to the country. "Charles Taylor's a psychopath and a killer," Klein added. "He's still very much involved. He's intrusive in Liberian politics."

Now intelligence sources in West Africa report that Taylor's meddling has turned violent. On January 19, gunmen opened fire on the motorcade of President Lansana Conte of Guinea, a neighboring country that backed the rebel movement that forced Taylor from power. Conte is an ailing dictator with no obvious successor, and his death could plunge Guinea into the sort of chaos that has consumed the region. According to a detailed, 30-page intelligence report written by investigators at the Special Court and obtained by The New Republic, Taylor was behind the failed assassination plot. The report concludes that "the credible information we have received clearly validates the allegations that Charles Taylor was directly involved in the assassination attempt of President Lansana Conte." According to the report, the Guinean intelligence service and the Gambian government have both confirmed Taylor's role.

The report alleges that Taylor is trying to destabilize one or more countries in the region as a first step toward leaving Nigeria and once again taking up arms. In fact, it says that "[c]urrent credible information indicates Taylor is planning another assassination attempt against President Conte," an accusation worth taking seriously, considering that these same sources warned investigators about the first Taylor-backed assassination plot weeks before it happened. In an April 7 letter to Republican Representative Frank Wolf, a supporter of bringing Taylor to justice, Alan White, the Court's chief investigator, wrote, "The assassination attempt and coup plot occurred precisely as reported to us, including the date.... Taylor has expanded his plan to destabilize the region by recruiting dissidents from The Gambia, Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Ivory Coast."

One of the report's most shocking allegations is that Taylor is not even confined to Nigeria. A senior Court official says he has confirmed that Taylor traveled to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in late February and stayed for two days at a home he keeps

there in his wife's name. According to the official, Taylor used the trip to meet with associates about the upcoming Liberian elections and to pick up cash from an account at the Central Bank of West African States. According to the same Court official, the Nigerian security officer who is responsible for Taylor recently told the Court that Taylor's e-mail and phone calls are not monitored, that he receives visitors, and that, contrary to popular belief, he is not under house arrest.

Why has the Bush administration not acted to bring Taylor to the Court? In part because of familiar divisions within its foreign policy team. On the one hand are the career officers who dominate the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs and have a Nigeria-centric view of West Africa. Nigeria is an increasing source of oil for the United States, and Nigerian forces are needed throughout the continent for key peacekeeping missions, including the one in Darfur. This camp still argues--despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary--that Taylor's asylum is an effective method of containment and that the Bush administration has too many other regional priorities to waste its time pressuring Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who takes a dim view of the Court and is loath to break his deal with Taylor. The Africa bureau and its allies at the CIA and FBI have routinely downplayed Taylor's regional ambitions and his links to Al Qaeda, which have been confirmed by the Court as well as by an investigative report that will soon air on NBC. The alleged Bush doctrine of eschewing stability for democratic change has not yet arrived in this corner of the State Department. "I think part of the problem is that the people in there are a jaded set of Africanists," says a Court official. "They are too cynical to believe the rule of law could apply in Africa, and [to them], anyone who believes the opposite is naïve."

To the extent that there is a countervailing force to the Africanists, it is represented by Pierre-Richard Prosper, the ambassador-at-large in the State Department's Office of War Crimes Issues. He told Congress last June that "it is U.S. policy that Taylor must be held accountable and must appear before the Court." But, since those words were uttered, there has been no action on the issue.

Beneath differing views on Africa policy within the bureaucracy may lie a more sinister reason for the administration's intransigence. One of the most persistent rumors in the circle of policy wonks, reporters, and government officials who follow the issue is that the Bushies are gun-shy about a trial, because Taylor would reveal some unsavory details about his relationship with the United States. It has been widely alleged but never confirmed that Taylor was a source of U.S. intelligence on Libya. Douglas Farah, the former West Africa correspondent for The Washington Post and the author of a recent book documenting Taylor's ties to Al Qaeda, says he has now unambiguously confirmed that Taylor was indeed on the U.S. payroll. Farah told me, "Taylor was a paid informant of the U.S. Defense Department intelligence service and reported regularly on his trips to Libya from at least 1992 to 1995. Debriefings took place in Ouagadougou. It was at a time when the United States had very little access to Muammar Qaddafi, and Taylor was traveling to Libya twice a month and meeting regularly with Qaddafi and Qaddafi's senior people ... I know this from folks on the U.S. side and people on the ground in Africa. They delivered attache cases of cash [to Taylor] in return. It was clearly a paid relationship. This was the period when the worst abuses were being committed by Taylor's child soldiers in the war in Liberia."



If in fact fears about such revelations are preventing the Bush administration from forcing Taylor to the Court, perhaps it shouldn't worry. Subsidizing and encouraging Taylor's relationship with Qaddafi--who was in turn funding Taylor's guerrilla movement and is almost as responsible as Taylor for the past 15 years of West African violence--would undoubtedly rank as one of the more appalling U.S. foreign policy operations in recent years. But previous U.S. relationships with Manuel Noriega, Slobodan Milosevic, and Saddam Hussein did not stop us from confronting them when the time came. And, as some Bush supporters argued during the run-up to the war with Iraq, past complicity with a war criminal makes the United States more responsible to bring the outlaw to justice, not less.

This week, Ed Royce, a California representative and longtime leader of the anti-Taylor forces in Congress, introduced a resolution calling on Nigeria to send Taylor to the Court. Recently, the European Parliament passed a similar motion. Senate Democrats like Patrick Leahy, as well as officials at the Court in Sierra Leone, want Bush to take the issue to the Security Council and force Nigeria to hand over Taylor or face sanctions. Bush should be commended for getting Taylor out of Liberia. Now he should get Taylor to the Court.

Ryan Lizza is a senior editor at TNR.

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US Fed News

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REP. ROYCE RESOLUTION SEEKS TO BRING WAR CRIMINAL CHARLES TAYLOR TO JUSTICE

US Fed News

WASHINGTON

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif. (40th CD), issued the following press release:

Saying that Charles Taylor is undermining peace and security in Liberia and throughout West Africa, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA-40) introduced a Congressional resolution [H.Con.Res 127] today calling on Nigeria to turn over the former Liberian President to the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). The SCSL has indicted Taylor for his role in committing war crimes, human rights violations and other atrocities during the war in Sierra Leone in the late 1990's.

"Taylor was responsible for mass carnage in Sierra Leone. There have been numerous reports of his violations of the terms of his asylum; he should be turned over and have to face the Court," said Royce.

The SCSL has indicted Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity based on his role in directly supporting the actions of the rebel Revolutionary United Front, which include widespread and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone. The charges against Taylor include terrorizing civilians, mass murder, rape, abduction, forced labor, and cutting off of limbs.

"The international community cannot allow Taylor to evade responsibility for his unconscionable actions. The Court was established to bring those who bear the greatest responsibility to justice; Charles Taylor undoubtedly bears the greatest responsibility," said Royce.

In 2003, Taylor was granted an internal asylum by Nigeria if he agreed to end his involvement in Liberian politics.

"The U.S. has invested too much in Liberia to allow Taylor a soft exile. Taylor is a serious and continuing threat to West African peace and security. We know he remains in contact with his cronies. This is counter to U.S. interests as well," said Royce.

Royce is the Vice-Chairman of the House Subcommittee that deals with African issues and has been focused on bringing Taylor to justice since 1997. The resolution is cosponsored by Rep. Tom Lantos, the senior Committee on International Relations Democrat, Rep. Frank Wolf, Rep. Vic Snyder, and Rep. Sue Kelly.

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European Parliament Passes Resolution Calling for Action to Ensure Taylor's Court  
Appearance

Bruce Zagaris

On February 28, 2005, the media reported that the European Parliament had adopted a resolution calling on the European Union and its member states to take immediate action to ensure former Liberian President Charles Taylor's appearance before the Special Court in Sierra Leone. n1

n1 *Renewed Pressure for Taylor Surrender; EU Member States Press Button on Nigeria*, THE ANALYST (Monrovia), Feb. 28, 2005 (<http://allafrica.com/stories>).

The European Parliament resolution calls on the European Union and its members to build international pressure in order to bring about Charles Taylor's extradition. The resolution explains that the EU members have contributed more than \$30 million to support the functioning of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and that the European Union has contributed \$800,000 Euro to support the Special Court's work.

The resolution requests Nigeria to turn Taylor over to the court, for the United Nations to work toward this goal, and for the U.N. Security Council to urgently consider this issue. n2

n2 *Id.*

The Special Court indicted Mr. Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in contributing to the murder, rape, abduction and mutilation of thousands of civilians during Sierra Leone's civil war from 1991 to 2002. After resigning the Liberian presidency under pressure in August 2003, Mr. Taylor accepted Nigeria's offer of asylum for the sake of peace in Liberia.

Despite substantial international pressure on Nigeria to surrender Taylor to the Special Court, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has rejected all such pleas, saying Taylor accepted Nigeria's offer of asylum for the sake of peace. n3

n3 *Id.*

Allegations have been made that Taylor remains in frequent contact with members of his former government, and that he also may be supporting an insurgency directed at Guinea with fighters loyal to him, including combatants from the former Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone, the Liberian Anti-Terrorist Unit and Special Security Service, and numerous Guinean dissidents. n4

n4 *Id.*

Since July 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has operated in Freetown and is expected to operate on a short time frame, approximately three years. Voluntary contributions constitute its principal source of funding. The Special Court has encountered significant difficulties in raising adequate funds to operate. n5

n5 *Id.*

The resolution of the European Parliament indicates the key role played by the EU in helping establish and support the Special Court. The short-time period and funding difficulties of the Special Court illustrate key problems encountered by ad hoc international criminal tribunals. The resolution indicates the dilemma of Nigeria: on the one hand, it has helped to end the civil war in Nigeria by offering asylum to Mr. Taylor; on the other hand, now the Nigerian government is under pressure from the international community and Special Court to surrender Mr. Taylor. Meanwhile, the clock ticks and makes his surrender even more time-sensitive.



## Rebels to rejoin Ivorian cabinet

**Ministers from Ivory Coast's former rebel group are due to take their seats in the power-sharing government for the first time in five months.**

New Forces ministers pulled out of the government after loyalist forces broke a ceasefire last November.

At least two ministers are set to take part in a cabinet meeting in Abidjan - under the control of loyalist forces.

The return was part of a deal agreed last week to end the conflict which has divided Ivory Coast since late 2002.

### Disarmament talks

Two other key parts of that agreement have been implemented this week.

On Wednesday the chief mediator, South African President Thabo Mbeki, said that all opposition candidates should be allowed to take part in elections due in October - a key rebel demand.

On Thursday, military commanders from both sides met to discuss relaunching the delayed disarmament process.

However, no progress was made, beyond an agreement to meet again on Saturday.

A New Forces leader said both military groups had become discredited.

He called on everybody to make concessions, but stressed that the New Forces consider the dismantling of the pro-government militias to be the key issue.

The BBC's James Copnall in Bouake says a further problem for both sides is the creation of a post-conflict army that would include both belligerent parties.

### Buffer zone

On Wednesday, a statement from Mr Mbeki was read out on television, which appeared to call for main opposition leader Alassane Ouattara to be allowed to run in the October poll.

An Ivory Coast government spokesman said he viewed Mr Mbeki's announcement as a recommendation, not a decision.

Mr Ouattara was stopped from running for president in 2000 on the grounds that his parents were not both Ivorian.

Mr Ouattara's Rally of Republicans (RDR) is popular in the mainly Muslim north of Ivory Coast, which has been under rebel control since September 2002.

Some 10,000 French troops and UN peacekeepers currently patrol a no-weapons buffer zone which separates the rebels from the rest of the country.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4445551.stm>

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