

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:

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216
MOBILE: 232 76 767502

Awoko. Tuesday June 14th, 2005.

'Saj Musa told us to try and reinstate the army' - witness

By Betty Milton

Giving his evidence at the Special Court Prosecution witness AFI-534 has told the Court how the army should be reinstated. The witness said after the arrival of Saj Musa at Col. Eddie Town he called a meeting where he formed the 500th battalion headed by Lt. Col. Foday Marrah who was also a member of the Sierra Leone Army. He informed them that he was just coming from Britain where he studied law and so therefore they should not commit any crime against humanity. He

said we should talk to the civilians, we should not burn houses, no amputation and also we should talk face to face with the civilians. He also told us that the movement to Freetown was to reinstate the army that has been disbanded, the troops he said should not retreat but head straight to Freetown through Mange Bureh. The witness continued "three days later, in December 1998, the troops moved off. Saj also gave orders that the

RUF should be captured and executed as he has been molested by Superman but the soldiers pleaded for them so they were only disarmed." The

witness maintained that when they left Col. Eddie Town, they went to Mange Bureh after which they headed for Maraykula the witness

explained. "we were attacked by the enemies there so 55 ordered that the town be burnt down. When we left Maraykula, we headed for the Lunsar

axis so we went to Mamusa village. While we were there Saj ordered that we should attack Lunsar." The witness said that their operation

Contd. Page 2

Saj Musa told us to try and reinstate the army

From Front Page commander was in charge of the mission, and during the attack some boxes containing arms and ammunition, uniforms of some ECOMOG soldiers were found which was a clear indication that there were ECOMOG troops around. The boxes the witness said were taken to Saj. They later went to

Gbere Junction where they were told by Saj he has had an announcement on the BBC that the government has declared that Masiaka was their strong hold. As a result some Guinean soldiers were captured and executed in the villages around Masiaka. The troops then headed for Waterloo where they had a face-to-face conversation with the

civilians and told them they want the civilians to join in the fight as they want to reinstate the army. The witness narrated. "Bulldoze ordered that the troops should head for Benguema, the loyal troops there tried to retaliate but we overpowered them. We also discovered some arms even a 120-millimetre mortar gun. While we were planting the mortar gun we heard a heavy blasting and later saw Barrie who was a security to Saj approached us carrying Saj who died later. After the death of Saj we went to straight to Koba water because we were afraid what might befall us." He narrated.

Advertisement

TheLiberianTimes.com

Liberia Military News

Stories You Won't Find Elsewhere. Fee Based Service for Professionals

NigeriaBigYe

The Nigerian bu your company fi

ADVERTISE | CONTACT US | RECOMMEND THIS SITE TO A FRIEND | DOWNLOAD THELIBERIANTIMES.COM

Categories

- [Liberian News](#)
- [Liberian Business News](#)
- [Liberian Sports News](#)
- [Liberian Political News](#)
- [Liberian Education News](#)
- [Book Reviews](#)
- [World News](#)

News / Info / Organizations

- [The Perspective](#)
- [LIMANY](#)
- [Liberian Orbit](#)
- [Vanguard Liberia](#)
- [Liberia Past and Present](#)
- [Liberian Soccer Magazine](#)
- [Liberia Online](#)
- [Liberian Connection - TLC](#)
- [Sahara Village](#)
- [Liberia Daily Observer](#)
- [Liberia Forum](#)
- [Analyst Liberia](#)
- [Liberian Herald](#)
- [Palava Hut](#)
- [All - Liberia Confab](#)
- [Running Africa](#)
- [Liberia Environmental Watch](#)
- [Liberian Dialogue](#)
- [Liberia Menus](#)
- [Liberian Online](#)
- [Liberian Journalists - USA](#)
- [Liberia Transparency Group](#)
- [Concern Liberians](#)
- [MOPGEL - "Gender Equality"](#)
- [Bassa Assoc. - USA](#)
- [Bong United - USA](#)
- [Nimba Council - USA](#)
- [ULAA](#)
- [Leaderland Corporation](#)
- [ET Consulting Group](#)
- [Seed Foundation](#)

TheLiberianTimes.com EDITORIAL

Human Rights Groups Launch Fresh Initiatives to Compel Nigerian Federal Government to Extradite Charles Taylor

Jun 13, 2005

Republished from Vanguard (Lagos)

CHARLES TAYLOR STEPS DOWN



TAYLOR'S RISE AND FALL

1997 Taylor wins presidential election held after more than a dozen power-sharing deals failed to end war

2000 First attacks by LURD rebel politicians United for Reconciliation and Democracy

2001 U.N. embargo takes effect in May to stop Taylor from trading arms for diamonds from rebels in Sierra Leone

2002 Taylor declares state of emergency in February

2003 February Rebel siege in Mt. Moribwa

June Taylor goes to Ghana to prepare talks with LURD. On the same day he is indicted by a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone

June 17 Warung factions sign ceasefire accord leading to negotiations to form a transition government without Taylor

July 4 Taylor agrees to step down and accepts an offer of asylum from Nigeria

August 4 3,250-strong peacekeeping force from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) departs for home

REUTERS

Wa
edi
to h

TWO international human rights organisation's London based Amnesty International and Washington based Human Rights Watch have launched fresh initiatives to force the Federal Government to extradite Warlord Charles Taylor for prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

Human Rights Watch in a statement by the director of its international justice programme Richard Dicker asked the UN Security Council to back efforts to bring the former Liberian President to trial in Sierra Leone to ensure justice in troubled West Africa.

Amnesty International in a report said Charles Taylor has no immunity from prosecution as ruled by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"Charles Taylor remains in Nigeria. He had been granted refugee status with apparent guarantees that he would neither be surrendered to the Special Court nor brought before Nigeria's own courts" the report said.

Democratic Change

Women Care International

Grand Gedeh - USA

Friends of Liberia

Liberian Collections Project

Haywood Mission US-Alumni

National Monitor

Next Liberia

<<Send Us Your Link>>

Human Rights Watch however said that the security councils handling of the Taylor issue will be a clear test of its commitment to its UN backed war crimes court.

Dicker said Taylor has broken the terms of his asylum in Nigeria by allegedly visiting Burkina Fasso and being fingered in the assassination attempt on Guinea President Lansana Conte.

Dicker said: "Taylor is a poster child for the link between justice and security in west Africa," Dicker said, just hours before the president of the UN-backed war crimes court, Judge Emmanuel Ayoola, was expected in New York to brief Security Council members on progress at the Freetown tribunal.

"The Security Council's handling of the Taylor issue will be a clear test of its commitment to both."

Nine people from three warring factions have since last year faced prosecution at the hybrid court for bearing the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's decade of civil war, which was characterized by brutal rape and the hacking off of limbs of civilians.

Taylor faces an Interpol warrant for his arrest and a 17-count indictment by the UN-backed war crimes court for allegedly arming and training Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for so-called blood diamonds.

The US-educated preacher is also accused of meddling in Liberia's eastern neighbor Ivory Coast and had an antagonistic relationship with Guinea President Lansana Conte, who is known to have backed rebels in their 1999 uprising, two years after Taylor became president.

Taylor was granted exile in Nigeria in August 2003, a reward brokered by west African leaders with the tacit approval of the United States and Britain for stepping down to bring an end to Liberia's second civil war since 1989.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has come under mounting international pressure, led by the United States and Britain, to hand Taylor over but has thus far refused, saying only an elected Liberian government could demand his extradition.

But Obasanjo, currently in France stumping for debt relief, has moderated his tone in the wake of meetings this month with top US officials including President George W. Bush, as well as new evidence from the war crimes tribunal that Taylor has violated the terms of his asylum.

Court documents accuse Taylor of complicity in the purported assassination attempt in January against his longtime nemesis Conte, and of leaving his luxurious exile in southern Nigeria for a trip to nearby Burkina Faso.

"Whatever deal was made two years ago to give Taylor asylum in Nigeria, he has more than broken the terms," Dicker said.

"The Security Council should affirm the urgency of Taylor being held accountable and commit itself to explore with Nigeria, which granted Taylor conditional asylum, a strategy to surrender him to the court as soon as possible," the New York-based watchdog said.

Copyright ©2005 TheLiberianTimes.com. All rights reserved

[Contact Us](#)
editor@theliberiantimes.com
646.225.9684

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

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on West Africa

06/13/2005 14:05:54

Ivory Coast rebels accuse government of preparing to relaunch hostilities

By PARFAIT KOUASSI

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) _ Rebels in Ivory Coast accused President Laurent Gbagbo's government of preparing to relaunch hostilities in the war-divided nation and vowed they would not disarm until pro-government militias lay down arms and legislative reforms are carried out.

An aide to Gbagbo dismissed the allegation, saying rebels were only making excuses to derail a disarmament campaign that's officially due to begin June 27.

06/13/2005 04:06:12

Cote d'Ivoire: Lust for Cocoa Land Feeds Ethnic Killings

Guitrozon, Jun 08, 2005 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The prime minister visited the scorched remains of this village in the volatile west of Cote d'Ivoire last week. The army chief of staff paid his respects. And the minister of administrative reform, who was born in the area, buried the dead.

Local Media – Newspapers**Liberians Face Mass Arrests in Guinea**

(Liberian Express)


- Security forces in Guinea have reportedly carried out mass arrests of Liberians residing in that country amid tension created by widespread reports that Liberian and Sierra Leonean ex-combatants are being recruited for an attack on Guinea aimed at overthrowing the government.

America Alert to Taylor's Threat Says U.S. Ambassador

(New Democrat)

- U.S. Ambassador John W. Blaney II told journalists in Monrovia on Friday that the U.S. Government remains alert to the threat former Liberian President Charles Taylor poses to the stability of Liberia and its neighbors.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

☑ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery

Africa News June 10, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 AllAfrica, Inc.
Africa News

June 10, 2005 Friday

LENGTH: 1489 words

HEADLINE: Liberia;
Taylor Vs. Milosevic: the Tale of the Tape

BYLINE: Liberian Observer

BODY:

Editor-in-Chief Rodney D. Sieh Looks at the cases of two formidable former world dictators. One, Slobodan Milosevic who is currently facing War Crimes Court in the Hague and the other, a more recent former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is currently at the center of a worldwide call to face a similar fate.

A wave of calls to bring former Liberian president Charles Taylor to justice for war crimes in neighboring **Sierra Leone** has intensified over the last few months. The Coalition for International Justice (CIJ), The U.K-based Global Witness, Human Rights First, the government of **Sierra Leone** and several other international organizations have made their case as to why they believe Mr. Taylor deserves to face the **special court** in **Sierra Leone**.

Slobodan Milosevic has been through it before, the calls, the pleas and finally an arrest and current trial to decide his fate. Milosevic's trial began in September 2002 and he is facing a charge of genocide - the most serious war crime - as the second part of his trial got underway. The prosecution opened its case on Bosnia and Croatia, after having finished its arguments on Kosovo. For thirteen years, Milosevic was the most powerful man in Yugoslavia, but today his life has been relegated to a succession of small, daily humiliation serving his time in isolation at the Scheveningen detention centre in The Hague.

Milosevic's Alleged Crimes

faces charges relating to atrocities carried out in Kosovo in 1999, to crimes against humanity committed in Croatia in 1991 and 1992, and to alleged genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. The indictment relating to Bosnia - the most serious - accuses him of being responsible for the killing of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats. It cites the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica and accuses Mr Milosevic of involvement in the murder, imprisonment and mistreatment of thousands of civilians, including women and the elderly.

In contrast, Mr. Taylor is for now, enjoying life in Calabar, Nigeria, as part of an agreement implemented by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and other African and world leaders to help bring an end to the Liberian crisis. Milosevic, on the other hand has been under 24-hour observation to ensure he does not attempt to kill himself - as both his parents did.

"The New York Times editorial "Prosecuting Charles Taylor" (June 9, 2005) appropriately compares the wrongs of Mr. Taylor in West Africa to those of Slobodan Milosevic in the

former Yugoslavia. Both former presidents stand indicted by international criminal courts on numerous counts of crimes against humanity committed in neighboring countries, and both are reported to have abused their positions of public trust to amass substantial fortunes. Both have also threatened to disrupt the fragile attempts to rebuild their regions after they left their presidencies," says John Stumpor, Senior Associate at the International Justice Program, Human Rights First.

Unfortunately, Stumpor says " the similarities end there. In the case of Mr. Milosevic, the United States successfully pushed for him to be brought to justice in The Hague. For Mr. Taylor, on the other hand, a comfortable "asylum" in Nigeria was arranged."

Taylor, who came to power through the use of a rebel movement, ruled the tiny West African nation with an iron hand, maiming, killing and suppressing his enemies. However, it is his alleged involvement in the civil war in neighboring **Sierra Leone** that may be causing him his most recent troubles. In August 2003, he stepped down and went into exile in Nigeria, despite being indicted for alleged war crimes by a United Nations-backed court for his part in the brutal civil war in **Sierra Leone**.

The New York Times took the issue a step further on Thursday by unearthing a comparison between Mr. Taylor and Slobodan Milosevic, the former president of Yugoslavia.

In an editorial on Thursday, the Times suggests that "Charles Taylor has done for West Africa what Slobodan Milosevic did for the former Yugoslavia. Yet while Mr. Milosevic is on trial in The Hague on charges including genocide, Mr. Taylor, Liberia's former president, is enjoying the lush life in a Nigerian government guesthouse."

Unlike Milosevic, Taylor is enjoying a life of luxury in his new home in Nigeria. The CIJ report strongly pushes the for Taylor to stand before the war crimes tribunal in **Sierra Leone** because he is continuing to meddle in the affairs of Liberia and other African countries. "He is using cellphones, computers and the visits of his many lieutenants to destabilize Liberia, influence the coming elections there and build a regional army. He is even accused of attempting to assassinate the president of Guinea. Nigeria now must do what American troops should have done in 2003: turn him over to the **Special Court**," said the Times editorial.

The Times explores the possibilities that "African leaders, mindful that their hands are less than clean, are nervous about turning over a former fellow president to a serious tribunal." To date, only **Sierra Leone** has openly come out in support of turning Taylor over to the **Special Court**.

The Case against Milosevic

The former president faces charges relating to atrocities carried out in Kosovo in 1999, to crimes against humanity committed in Croatia in 1991 and 1992, and to alleged genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. The indictment relating to Bosnia - the most serious - accuses him of being responsible for the killing of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats. It cites the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica and accuses Mr Milosevic of involvement in the murder, imprisonment and mistreatment of thousands of civilians, including women and the elderly.

In Serbia, Mr Milosevic faces additional charges connected with the murder of former President Ivan Stambolic, abuse of power and siphoning off billions of dollars of state funds into foreign accounts. Those were the issues that officially lay behind his dramatic arrest in April 2001.

This charge against Milosevic resonates with a recent charge by the officials from the

Prosecutor's Office of the **Special Court**, who said they have received information that Taylor was involved in a January 2005 assassination attempt on Guinean President Lansana Conte. There are also allegations that he may be supporting an insurgency against the Guinean government composed of fighters loyal to Taylor. During the Liberian civil war of 1999-2003, Guinea provided logistical assistance to rebels which in July 2003 overran Monrovia. There are other allegations that Taylor remains in frequent contact with members of his former government. According to **Special Court** officials, Taylor traveled from Nigeria to Burkina Faso in February to meet with Liberian presidential hopeful Francis Galawolo.

The Case Against Taylor

Taylor's alleged Crimes

Charles Taylor faces a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict in **Sierra Leone**. The charges include terrorizing the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, forced conscription of child soldiers, abductions, forced labor, looting and burning, and attacks on UN peacekeeping personnel.

When Mr. Taylor was under siege by rebel forces in 2003, the United States, Britain and Nigeria arranged for him to get asylum in Nigeria, figuring that his quick exile would cut down on the bloodshed. So Nigeria gave Mr. Taylor a safe harbor on the condition that he stop behaving as West Africa's warlord in chief.


It was not a perfect solution. The Nigerians interpreted the deal as preventing them from turning Mr. Taylor over to a United Nations-backed war crimes court, where Mr. Taylor is wanted on 17 counts of crimes against humanity.

In contrast, Milosevic's indictment lists individual crimes, locations of those crimes and documents to support them: They include twenty-five murders 'not related to detention facilities'; twenty murders 'related to detention facilities'; thirty-one 'detention facilities'; forty-five examples of 'forcible transfer' (with the total number of expelled: 268,050); forty-seven victims of 'Sarajevo sniper incidents'; and twenty-six individual or mass casualties of 'Sarajevo shelling incidents'. The 5 February 1994 mortar-shell massacre in the Markale market is also listed, which the propagandists of Karadzic and Milosevic strove so hard to present as a morbid act by the defenders themselves.

Whatever their strengths and weaknesses may or may not be, history will no doubt raise the comparison over and over again and Taylor and Milosevic's alleged role in the killing of innocent civilians and or enemies will continue to haunt their existence as long as they are around, or for the moment at least, until justice has been served.

rsieh@liberianobserver.com

LOAD-DATE: June 13, 2005

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 - 3:51 AM EDT

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)