

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, June 17, 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



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 June 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia

Source: Global Witness Limited
Date: 15 Jun 2005

Liberia: Uncontrolled Liberian resource exploitation and manipulation by Charles Taylor continue to threaten peace in West Africa

A report released on 15 June 2005 by Global Witness (1) titled 'Timber, Taylor, Soldier, Spy' details how uncontrolled exploitation of Liberia's natural resources, structural violence and interference by former Liberian president Charles Taylor are undermining peace in West Africa. Global Witness calls on the UN Security Council to maintain the timber and diamond sanctions (2), and calls on US, UK, Nigeria and ECOWAS states to facilitate the extradition of Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he should face trial on the 17 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity brought against him (3).

"West Africa is at a delicate point in its post-conflict recovery. Not dealing with the Taylor threat, not controlling Liberia's natural resources and not taking action on poor governance in Liberia leaves West Africa at great risk of a return to war," says Natalie Ashworth, of Global Witness (4). "The international community must be more robust if it is to safeguard peace and its investment in the region's future."

Local Media – Radio Veritas

(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 and 21:30)

Recruitment Taking Place in Liberia to Destabilize West Africa

- Recruitment of ex-combatants is currently ongoing in Liberia to destabilize neighboring Guinea and West Africa, according to a UN Panel of Experts report submitted to the Security Council this week.

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.



Build. Your business.

Liberia: Will Bush and Blair Finally Take Action Against Indicted War Criminal and Former U.S. Military Intelligence Asset Charles Taylor?

Global Witness (London)

PRESS RELEASE

June 6, 2005

Posted to the web June 9, 2005

The UK, the US and Nigeria are stalling efforts to extradite indicted war criminal and former Liberian president Charles Taylor from Nigeria to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which has charged him with a range of 17 war crimes and crimes against humanity (1).

This issue links into the heart of G8 efforts on poverty in Africa because warlords such as Taylor have used the profits from trading in conflict resources including diamonds and timber. This has driven countries in West Africa further into poverty. The profits from conflict resources were used to fund rebel groups, including the RUF in Sierra Leone who were supported financially and militarily by Taylor and who were internationally notorious for their horrendous war crimes, including hacking the limbs off men, women and children. Resource trading continues to be at the heart of a number of conflicts in Africa including Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

If Bush and Blair are serious in their crusade on poverty in Africa, then they must ensure that Taylor is handed over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face trial.

Global Witness (2) today launches a briefing document, 'A Time for Justice', detailing the continued threat that Taylor poses to West Africa including his ongoing contact with key military and government figures in Liberia and his influence over a number of Liberian political parties (3). According to representatives of the Special Court and other diplomatic correspondence, Taylor was also behind an assassination attempt against Guinean President Lansana Conte in mid-January 2005 and has been secretly travelling to Burkina Faso and Chad to meet key associates, plan operations and receive financial support (4).

"We now have the bizarre situation where Washington's official position, stated by the US Embassy in Nigeria, is that Charles Taylor should be handed over", says Simon Taylor, Global Witness Co-Director. "Meanwhile, there are significant players at high levels running around Washington undermining the good-faith effort of the US State Department to resolve this matter. Just exactly who is in control? The key question is to what extent does this whole mess have to do with Charles Taylor previously having been on the payroll of US military intelligence?"

Says Simon Taylor, "This ridiculous situation makes a mockery of Bush's stated policy of promoting democracy and freedom – especially in Africa – and he urgently needs to sort out the chaos that is allowing Taylor to slip through the net."



Norman Threatens Hunger Strike Till He Dies

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

June 16, 2005

Posted to the web June 16, 2005

By Sahr Musa Yamba
Freetown

War crimes indictee, Chief Hinga Norman has threatened to go on hunger strike until he dies, a letter from the Civil Defence Force (CDF) Coordinator to COCORIOKO last evening circulated by the Spokesman of the force, Rev. Alfred Sam Foray states.

The letter is addressed to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, with copies sent to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Vice-President Solomon Berewa and international organizations including ECOWAS, The African Union, The European Union and all diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Sierra Leone. Rev. Sam Foray told COCORIOKO that the letters have already been served to the intended recipients.

In the letter, he said, Chief Norman levied serious accusations of bias, injustice, impunity and corruption against the United Nation backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, though he did not detail examples to substantiate his claims. But the former Minister of Defence protested bitterly in the letter against the "humiliating" way he was arrested on March 10, 2003 by the Sierra Leone Police in his office in Freetown.

Norman outlined conditions, which he said must be met by July 4, 2005 or he will go on hunger strike until he dies.

Copyright © 2005 Concord Times. All rights reserved. Distributed
by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).
