

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:

Monday, June 06, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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The New Storm. Mon June 6, 2005.

Special Court Disowns Norman Kondewa's Letter

By Joseph Komeh



Chief Norman

The Assistant Chief of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Mr. Peter C. Anderson yesterday distanced the court from the recent letter purportedly co-signed by Chief Norman, Monina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa saying that "Special Court do not know anything about the letter".

The letter, which was addressed to Kamajors and allied, warns all Mendes and Kamajor sympathizers not to take part in any political arrangement involving president Kabbah and Vice President Berewa.

Mr. Anderson said "We have to find out from the co-accused persons since the letter bears their signatures to ascertain the authenticity". He further

stated that even if it happens to be true that the three CDF indictees are the author of the letter, special Court, he said is not involve in neither the 2005 nor the 2007 elections in the country". He added that it is only a goal in another development during cross-examination by Mr. Charles Margai, Counsel for CDF's third accused Allieu Kondewa,

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Special Court Disowns Norman, Kondewa's Letter

From front page
The prosecutors witness TF2-187 told the court yesterday that RUF rebels captured her in 1994. She said she remained at their custody until 1998. She said that she only escaped from them when they RUF killed her husband and assaulted her child.

TF2-187 also testified that the Kamajors killed three pregnant women in Gambia in the Bonthe district. She said the incident occurred at the Gambia court barray in 1998. She said Chief Norman also visited the town at that time. When concluding his cross-examination, Mr.

Margai told the witness that the whole of 1998 both Hinga Norman and Allieu Kondewa never visited Gambia. He also put it to her that her three women testimonies never happen, adding that it was just a figment of her imagination. The witness however disagreed with him.

Unity. Mon June 6, 2005.

Charles Taylor Violates exile agreement

By Suliaman Fofanah

The government of Nigeria has warned Taylor on at least three occasions to desist from violating the terms of his exile agreement.

According to a press release distributed on Friday by the office of the prosecutor for Special Court, last October Taylor wired \$160,000 to his supporters in Monrovia to spark riots that killed 12 and injured over 250 people. The release also stated that he is funding the campaign of his supporters in Liberia ahead of elections this October. According to his spokesman the release went on Taylor has announced his intention to hold a press conference during the

Liberian election season.

This, according to the Nigerian government is a violation of his terms of exile.

From Nigeria prosecutor David Crane said, Charles Taylor holds a sword over the future of West Africa. Mr. Crane went on to say that it is certainly clear that Taylor is meddling in the international affairs of several West African states and also working directly with terrorist.



Charles Taylor - drawing close to his Waterloo.

Two years ago, if the agreement with Nigerian President the made sense to send Taylor to Nigeria in order to allow the peace process in Liberia. Given a chance to go quietly, Charles Taylor has done nothing but betray the agreement with Nigerian President the E. A. D. S. of West African States, African Union, US and UK government" said Mr. Crane.

Awoko. Mon June 6, 2005.

'My uncle was killed by Kamajors' - witness

By Betty Milton
During cross-examination at the Special Court. Prosecution witness TF2-187 told the Court that the Kamajors killed his uncle in Gambia. Charles Margai, Defence lawyer for the third

accused - Alieu Kondewa, asked the witness to identify a particular name that she did. She was later asked whether the uncle, which she said was allegedly killed by the Kamajors, was married and had two children, the witness said "yes". She was

challenged by the lawyer that this uncle is still in Gambia with his family but the witness denied and said "my uncle is dead the children are with their mother in Gambia, Jong District. I came here to speak the truth about

what I saw and I have taken an oath. My uncle was killed by the Kamajors." She explained "the Kamajors tied his hand behind his back, set fire to a plastic and started pouring the burning liquid in his eyes and later he died. I saw it happen." She was also asked whether Chief John Lewis was the paramount chief present at the barray

where these three corpses were lying? The witness said the barray was so crowded that if even he was there she could not have seen him. She also said that oil palm was the main source of income of the people in Gambia so therefore the village was popular for that. Because of that, the witness said, the area attracted people everywhere. The witness also denied the

question that Hinga Norman never went to Gambia in the later part of 1998. She said "he was there with foodstuff and medicine, two Policemen also escorted him to Gambia." The lawyer said Gambia is three miles to Matru Jong but the witness said it is seven miles to Matru. It was at the junction that they pinned the head of these three fetuses that they had chopped off for Hinga Norman to see, she said.

Nigerian Civil Groups

lobby Obasanjo for

Taylor's extradition

*Story: Abdul Karim Koroma
just back from Nigeria*

Civil Society groups in Nigeria
are currently lobbying President

Olusungu Obasanjo to extradite
exiled former Liberian leader,
Charles Taylor to face trial for

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Nigerian Civil Groups lobby Obasanjo

From page 1

alleged war crimes in Sierra Leone's civil conflict.

Executive Director of the Centre for Democracy and Development, Kayode Fayemi says they have formed a coalition that is working with the International Criminal Court on issues of Taylor's repatriation, Nigerians who suffered as a result of his brutality and the formation of an advocacy group to press for Taylor's extradition.

"President Obasanjo's position on Taylor is understandable to all

of us although we are not accepting it," Fayemi said and added that they are mobilizing support to have him extradited.

He explained that Nigeria is not against Taylor paying for all that he did in the sub-region but ECOWAS fully endorsed the peace initiative in Liberia to fish out Taylor for peace to prevail in Liberia.

Fayemi noted that civil groups in his country are not quarreling over the security ramifications of Taylor in Nigeria but on the human right implications, which

are not good for Africa generally.

He however said that Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane did more harm to the court by announcing Taylor's indictment whilst he was in Ghana where a peaceful solution was being sought on the Liberian crisis.

"The indictment was wrong and it did not help the situation. Crane does not understand what it takes to negotiate in a West African crisis," he said, adding, "he can't use his American cowboy attitude to settle conflicts in West Africa."

Concord Times. Mon June 6, 2005.

The Exclusive. Mon June 6, 2005.

As America Intensify Pressure On Nigeria..

Taylor To Be Extradited Soon

Nigeria is coming under increasing pressure to expel ousted Liberian President

Charles Taylor so that he can face trial in a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra

Leone, a move now supported by the United States. Taylor, a former warlord, has been accused of backing rebels notorious for hacking off limbs during the 1991-2002 Sierra Leone civil war, allegations that Taylor denies. The U.N.-backed tribunal wants him out of Nige-

ria, where he's in exile to face charges. A United States official on Tuesday said "the time has come for this to happen." The U.N. backed tribunal also accuses Taylor of vio-

Nigeria for granting Taylor asylum, saying that was the only way to bring peace to Liberia. Now the United States favours Taylor's extradition. "We believe that justice will not be complete until Charles
Contd. page 2



Charles Taylor, wanted

UNAMSIL Quits Kossoh Town

The Local Unit Commander, Chief Superintendent M-s. Elizabeth Turry, has informed the press on Thurs-

day June 2nd 2005, that UNAMSIL peacekeepers deployed at Kossoh have withdrawn without notifying the

police for immediate deployment, as a result some unscrupulous elements, who went ahead and demolished

the mission's make shift structure. According to her, nine (49)
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Taylor To Be Extradited Soon

From front page

Taylor appears before the court to answer the charges against him and believe the time has come for this to happen," said Rudolph Stewart, a spokesman for the U.S Embassy in Nigeria.

He said that president Olusegun Obasanjo had not done enough by offering to hand Taylor over rather than the court in Sierra Leone. Taylor has been accused of backing the rebels in Sierra Leone war.

Assassination Attempt On Guinea's Lansana Contd.

The anti-Taylor chorus has heightened its pitch in recent months as the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone has begun to receive evidence that Taylor was behind a conspiracy to attempt to assassinate Guinea's President Lansana Conte. Himself accused of backing the rebels that fought Taylor.

After assassinating Conte, Taylor hoped to relocate to Guinea, where he is already

says Sierra Leone's government would be attacked next, and the war crimes court "disrupted" according internal document, which says all this is scheduled to take place by the time of Liberia's Oct. 11 Presidential elections.

Sierra Leone for the first time last week, called for Taylor to be handed to the war crimes tribunal. Until then, it had kept quite so as not to be seen as trying to influence the court.

Taylor triggered Liberia's descent into violence when he launched an insurgency from neighboring Ivory Coast in 1989-hastening a cycle of violence across West Africa. The peace deal under which Taylor left Liberia brought an end to years of conflict in which an estimated 250,000 died. The country's fragile peace is now monitored by 15,000 U.N. troops.

Taylor moved to Nigeria, departing to reside in Liberia but his spokesman, Isaac Paasawe says a return to power is the last thing on the former ruler's mind and denied all the allegations, which he said were "potentially

he does not want to be president." Paasawe said "We would like to return to Liberia, certainly as a former president."

Paasawe also said Taylor would break a long media black out and hold a press conference August month to the day before elections in his homeland.

Nigerian Presidential Spokesman, Femi Fani-Kayode, said media interviews are not allowed under an unwritten asylum agreement with Taylor, and that Taylor has not informed Nigerian authorities of the planned statement.

"He is being monitored very closely and we certainly won't tolerate a situation where he operates outside the conditions. If necessary, extra steps will be taken," said Fani-Kayode.

Taylor himself was unwilling to speak to The Associated Press during a recent attempt to visit him in the remote Southeastern Nigerian town of Oshana. The government has provided him with a cream-colored villa overlooking a winding river and forests far as the eye can see.

Herald Sun

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Sexual assault appear draws close

Keith Moor
04jun05

VICTORIA Police Supt Peter Halloran's appeal against a sex conviction in West Africa is expected to start on June 20.

Halloran, 56, has been on bail in war-torn Sierra Leone since soon after being jailed for 18 months in February.

A judge sitting without a jury found him guilty of indecently assaulting a teenage girl, but later granted bail pending the appeal. His appeal will be heard before three judges at the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal.

Halloran is on unpaid leave from Victoria Police after accepting a job as commander of war crimes investigations at the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

His Melbourne lawyer, Tony Hargreaves, yesterday said Melbourne QC Lex Lasry and solicitor Darren Bracken would travel to West Africa.

"An application has been made by each for admission to the Sierra Leone Bar, which would enable them to appear in the case," he said.

"We haven't received the result of those applications yet. But it is proposed they will each go regardless of whether they are granted admission as they can still act as observers in the court.

"There are a number of grounds of appeal we will be pursuing. But the main ground is that there was no evidence upon which the trial judge could have properly convicted Mr Halloran.

"Not that there was insufficient evidence, but that there was no evidence."

Mr Lasry is chairman of Victoria's Criminal Bar Association and conducted the ambulance royal commission in Victoria.

Halloran supporter and former Victoria Police armed robbery and arson squad head Gary Ayres yesterday said he was relieved the appeal finally looked like starting.

"The supposed victim gave sworn evidence in court that he never touched her," he said.

"There is no forensic or medical evidence of an assault and no witnesses that put Peter and the girl alone together."

The allegations against Halloran were first raised by former Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell, who was sharing a house with Halloran and working with him at the Special Court.

Ms Cordwell, 37, has refused repeated requests by the *Herald Sun* to be interviewed.

Halloran is former head of the Victoria Police homicide and vice squads and a 40-year force veteran.

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UN starts Sudan war crimes probe

The International Criminal Court is to launch an inquiry into alleged war crimes in west Sudan's Darfur region.

The Hague court's chief prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo is expected on Monday to announce details of what will be the ICC's biggest ever investigation.

The BBC's Martin Lumb says this is the first time the court has used its right to pursue a case where a host state is thought unwilling or unable to do so.

A special UN inquiry has given the ICC the names of 51 potential suspects.

The UN says about 180,000 people have died in the two-year Darfur conflict.

It says more than two million people have been forced to leave their homes in the region.

Advice rejected

The expected announcement by Mr Ocampo comes two months after the situation in Darfur was referred to the ICC following a vote at the UN Security Council - the first time the council has referred a case to the ICC.

Our correspondent says that by launching the investigation now the court has rejected more cautious advice that the case should wait until the conflict is completely resolved.

Other trials will be held later this year against alleged perpetrators of war crimes in two other African nations, Uganda and Congo.

However, in these cases the governments themselves turned to The Hague for justice.

But Sudan has said it will refuse to hand over its citizens for trial abroad and will prosecute suspects itself.

US backs down

The Security Council cited allegations of rape, murder and plunder in Darfur.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch group said the Sudanese authorities in Khartoum have not taken any meaningful steps to bring to account those responsible for the alleged crimes.

The referral to the court was made possible when the US - which opposes the ICC - backed away from using its veto power as the Council's permanent member.

The US has expressed its concerns that the court could bring bogus charges against American nationals.

Washington has already signed nearly 100 bilateral treaties with countries that have agreed not to surrender US citizens to the ICC.

However, 99 countries have ratified the court's founding treaty, including all of Washington's major allies in Europe.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4612005.stm>

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International court to launch Darfur investigation

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) -- The International Criminal Court will launch a formal investigation into allegations of war crimes in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, officials familiar with the case said.

The court has been analyzing the situation in Darfur since the United Nations referred to it allegations of rape, murder and plunder in April, following a U.N. Security Council vote.

Dozens of court officials have begun preparing for the investigation, the largest and most important yet to be handled since the fledgling body was established in July 2002.

Prosecutors were to announce the decision to move forward in Darfur on Monday, and Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will brief the U.N. about his plans later this month in New York, the officials said on Sunday, adding that they could not comment officially until the investigation had been formally announced by the court.

Investigators have said they hope to move quickly and complete their work over a period of months, rather than years.

Once they have gathered evidence and interviewed witnesses, court officials will then consider issuing indictments against individual suspects and seek their extradition to The Hague.

The vast western Sudanese region of Darfur is the scene of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. An estimated 180,000 people have died -- many from hunger and disease -- and about 2 million others have been displaced since the conflict began in February 2003.

The referral of the Darfur case was made possible when the United States -- which fiercely opposes The Hague-based court -- backed away from exercising its veto powers as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Washington, which says it fears the court will initiate bogus charges against American nationals, has actively undermined it by signing nearly 100 bilateral treaties with countries that have agreed not to surrender U.S. citizens to the court.

Meanwhile, 99 countries have ratified the court's founding treaty, including all major U.S. allies in the European Union.

A special U.N. commission of inquiry on Darfur, which spent several months gathering evidence of war crimes, handed the court its findings, including a list of 51 potential suspects.

Darfur's crisis erupted when rebels took up arms against what they saw as years of state neglect and discrimination against Sudanese of African origin.

The government is accused of responding with a counterinsurgency campaign in which the ethnic Arab militia known as the Janjaweed have committed wide-scale abuses against ethnic Africans.

Trials are planned for later this year at the International Criminal Court against alleged perpetrators of war crimes in two other violence-wracked African nations, Uganda and Congo.

The court is intended to step in only when countries themselves are unable or unwilling to take action against war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed on their soil.

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