

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 07, 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

The Exclusive . Tuesday June 7th, 2005.

Special Court

New Principal Defender For Sierra Leone

Vincent .O. Nmechielle, a Nigerian law Professor, has been named Principal Defender at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr Nmechielle has extensive experience in both Criminal

Defence and Academic law. In 1990, he received his B.L. (Barrister at law) degree from

the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Bar the same year.

He received an LL. M (Masters of Law) Degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1996, and a S.J.D (Doctor of Juridical Science) degree in 2000 from the George Washington University Law School.

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Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. From 1998 to 2002, he served as International Law Counsel for the firm Amorrow & Company, P.A in the United States.

Independent Observer. Tuesday June 7th, 2005.

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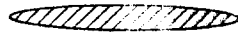
From 1998 to 2002, he served as International Law Counsel for the firm Amorrow & Kum, P.A. in the United States.

Since February 2002, Mr. Nmehielle has been an Associate Professor of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He also held the post of Professorial Lecturer in Law, where he taught at the Oxford/George Washington University Joint Programme in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford.

He has written extensively on international human rights law, as well as constitutional law and traditional legal practices in Africa.

The Principal Defender is charged with ensuring the rights of accused persons who appear before the Special Court. In addition, he oversees the defence teams, provides counsel for indigent defendants, advises defence lawyers, and acts as a voice for the defence both inside and outside the Court.

Mr. Nmehielle succeeds Simone Monasebian, who announced her intention to leave the Court last February. Ms. Monasebian remained at the Court through May, and served on the panel which chose her successor.



Awoko. Tuesday June 7th, 2005.

At Special Court ...

'I stabbed a man to obtain a gun'-witness

By Betty Milton

Prosecution witness TF2-080 has told the Special Court that he stabbed a man to get a Sub Machine Gun support weapon. Led in evidence by the Prosecutor the witness said he joined the group voluntarily "when I joined the group, at that time there was no commander so everything

was done' all by ourselves. I had only a knife at that time." The witness said, "I was at the checkpoint when I saw troops going for 'Jah Jah' meaning looting at Moyamba. There were two boys who were in my same age group so I decided to join the group for the mission. When we

went, the rebels first attacked us but we overpowered them. It was during the battle that one rebel was shot, and as he was fighting to survive I stabbed him and took his gun from him." The witness said he joined the group because some small boys that were part of the group constantly harassed them

when they were in a camp at Taiama. The witness said these boys used to send them to do certain jobs for them forcefully like carrying loads and even to fetch food. He maintained that since they had no commander, whenever they had a battle with the rebels, they will loot the properties and houses of civilians, and if they find out that there were soldiers among, they were burnt. "When we were manning a checkpoint we used to search the bags of civilians, and we even detained and beat big men." He said the only group that had a name at that time

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I stabbed a man to obtain a gun

From Front Page
was the Ranger Group headed by Col. Haji and after his initiation they were ordered to attack

Mile 91 that was occupied by the juntas but they never succeeded. He stressed the reason why he joined the Kamajor

Association was because his younger sister had earlier been captured and killed by the rebels.

Taylor pumps \$160,000 into Liberia for elections

Story: Sahr Musa Yamba

Erstwhile Prosecutor of the United Nations backed Special Court, David Crane has alleged that last October exiled Liberian President, Charles Taylor wired \$160,000 to his supporters in Monrovia to spark riots that killed twelve and injured over 200 people.

"He is funding the campaigns of his supporters in Liberia ahead of elections this October, and has every intention to return to Liberia," Crane maintained in a release from the Special Court. He made the allegations at the Second

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Charles Taylor - awaiting the long arm of the law

Taylor pumps \$160,000 into Liberia for elections

From page 1

Anniversary of the Unsealing of Charles Taylor's Indictment, and adds, "Charles Taylor Holds a Sword Over the Future of West Africa."

"Two years after unsealing the indictment against former Liberian President Charles Taylor, he remains a threat to the peace in West Africa," Crane maintained. On 4 June 2003, Crane announced to the world that Taylor had been indicted three months earlier. Two months later, on 11 August 2003, the international community prevailed upon Nigeria to accept Taylor in exchange for a promise to leave Liberia, and end all involvement in Liberian and regional affairs.

"Two years ago, it made sense to send Taylor to Nigeria in order to allow the Liberian peace process to begin. Given the need to go quietly, Charles Taylor has done nothing but betray the agreement with the Nigerian President, the Economic

Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations and the US and UK governments," said Crane.

The Prosecutor explained, "The government of Nigeria has warned Taylor on at least three occasions that he has violated the terms of his exile agreement, but even after these warnings, Taylor has remained involved in Liberian affairs. Just this week, through his spokesman, Taylor announced his intention to hold a press conference during the Liberian election season, in what the government of Nigeria said would be a violation of the terms of his exile.

Crane stated further that it certainly appears that Taylor is meddling in the internal affairs of several West African states and working directly with terrorists.

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 labour, looting and burning, and attacks on UN peacekeeping personnel.

The Prosecutor indicted Charles Taylor on 3 March 2003, and unsealed the indictment on 4 June 2003. Official copies of the indictment and warrant of arrest were delivered to the Nigerian government by the Court's Registry on 27 November 2003, and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) issued a 'Red Notice' for Charles Taylor on 3 December 2003. Just over one year ago, on 31 May 2004, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone rejected a motion filed by attorneys for Taylor, who sought to have the charges against him thrown out on the grounds that Taylor was a sitting head of state at the time of the indictment.

"Taylor holds a sword over West Africa's future"

- David Crane

Two years after unsealing the indictment against former Liberian President Charles Taylor, Prosecutor David M. Crane says Charles Taylor remains a threat to peace in West Africa.

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him absolutely nothing."

Mr. Crane went on to say that it certainly appears that Taylor is meddling in the internal affairs of several West African states, and working directly with terrorists.

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The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone.

It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

To date, the Prosecutor has indicated thirteen persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Two indictments were withdrawn following the deaths of the accused.

Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the court.

The Exclusive. Tuesday June 7th 2005.

Exposed

Taylor's Sister In Love With Obasanjo

Called from Perspective - Atlanta, Georgia



Taylor



Obasanjo

When Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo paid frequent visits to Liberia during Charles Taylor's chaotic presidency, many Liberians believed one of Africa's most

powerful and influential statesmen was seeking a genuine peace for Liberia, leaving no stone unturned to end the country's brutal conflict that claimed the

lives of over a quarter of a million people and destabilized the West African subregion. People believed this way because previous Nigerian leaders who were involved with

the Liberian peace process never visited Liberia. They simply told Taylor and other
Contd. page 2

Taylor's Sister In Love With Obasanjo

From front page

major players in the conflict to proceed to Abuja for talks regarding the peace process. President Obasanjo changed the host policy and became ambassador for peace in Liberia, shuttling between Abuja and Monrovia. But beneath that unique concern demonstrated by the Nigerian leader, it has been gathered, was a selfish agenda obscured by power and influence to heighten the hope and expectations of an oppressed people while surreptitiously caressing with their oppressor. What is sad about what has now become an open secret in Liberia, President Obasanjo

personal relationship with Charles Taylor's sister Geebion, a situation widely believed to be behind the Nigerian leaders' refusal to hand over Taylor for trial as an indicted war criminal- is the potential to undercut Nigeria's unmatched sacrifices for the restoration of lasting peace to Liberia. According to an inside source, Charles Taylor is reported to have personally initiated the relationship between his sister and President Obasanjo during one of his officials visits to Monrovia. The source said, Taylor told Obasanjo: "Mr. President, we are Africans. This is my sister, she will take care of

you while you are in our country," since then, the source added. The relationship has expanded into a regular love affair. And because President Obasanjo has no reason to visit Liberia at this time, it's now Geebion who has embarked on the road trip, going in and out of Nigeria as will. Even the United Nations have been slammed on Taylor, his former officials, associates and family members cannot stop the presidential concubine who is said to be one of the main conductors through which Charles Taylor receives large amounts of money from his sponsors in Liberia and other parts of the world. See Next page for more on this.

Salone Times. Tuesday June 7th, 2008.

'Taylor Is Directly Working With Terrorists,' Says Crane

War Crimes Chief Prosecutor in Sierra Leone, David Crane has renewed his allegations against exiled former Liberian President and indictee of the court, Charles Taylor of working directly with terrorists.

In a press release issued over the weekend, Crane said, "It certainly appears that Taylor is meddling in the internal affairs of several West African states and is working directly with terrorists," Mr. Crane said.

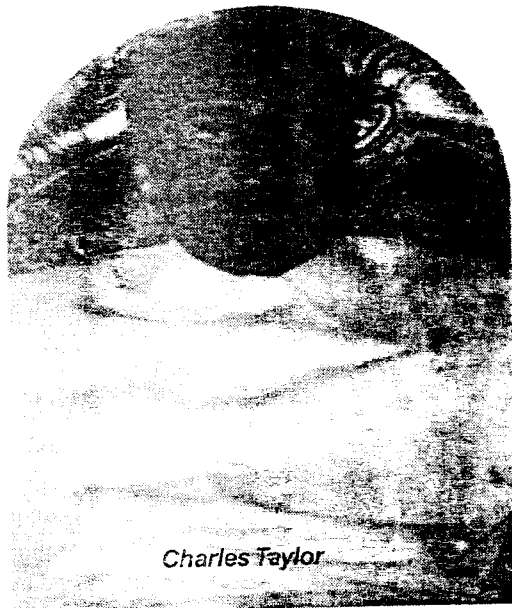
In a press statement over the weekend, Mr. Crane said that the government of Nigeria had warned Taylor on at least three occasions that he has violated the terms of his exile agreement.

"It is absolutely clear that from Nigeria, Charles Taylor holds a sword over the future of West Africa and Nigeria and the world owe him absolutely nothing," the release continued.

The release went on to accuse Taylor of fuelling riots in Monrovia last October that left twelve people dead and over two hundred injured.

"Just last week, through his spokesman, Taylor announced his intention to hold a press conference ahead of the Liberian elections due shortly in what the government of Nigeria said would be a violation of the terms of his exile," the release further stated.

Charles Taylor faces 17-count indictment for war

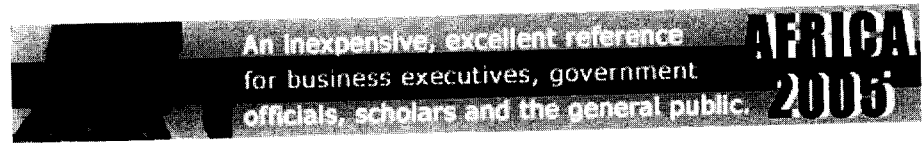


Charles Taylor

crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone during the war.

The charges include unlawful killing, sexual and physical violence, forced conscription of child soldiers, abductions, forced labour, looting and burning, terrorizing the civilian population among others.

Mr. Taylor is currently exiled in Calabar, Nigeria.



Why U.S. is After Charles Taylor - Aide

This Day (Lagos)

NEWS

June 3, 2005

Posted to the web June 6, 2005

By Amby Uneze
Calabar

Fresh indications have emerged as to why the United States of America wants exiled former Liberian President, Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor to face trial of war crimes in a UN special court in Sierra Leone.

US pressure to nail Taylor is not unconnected with the roles he played while in office as President of Liberia not to patronize US armament to prosecute the Liberian war which lasted for more than a decade, a close associate and aide of the former war lord has exclusively disclosed.

The associate who told THISDAY on the condition of anonymity, revealed that during the Liberian war the US government approached Taylor for sales of arms, but he turned down the request, adding that this singular action infuriated the US, hence they decided to lend support to Taylor's opponent.

According to the source, the current allegation by US that Taylor may be providing diamond which helps fund Al Qaeda operations, among other things could not be substantiated as it is like the case of giving a dog a bad name in order to hang it.

Again, THISDAY learnt that besides other facts, US is not happy with Taylor for his alleged continued interference in Liberia and other West African sub-region which may adversely affect US business interests in those countries.

The source further accused US of fuelling crises in the third world countries so that she could find market for her war equipment in order to continue to enrich her economy at the detriment of the developing countries.

It further reasoned that if US could stop funding crises in the world today, there would be peace in the globe, adding that because of her selfish business interest, she would not stop fuelling crises across the globe.

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Cocorioko Website

KAMAJORS WERE ORDERED TO BURN DOWN EVERY HOUSE OCCUPIED BY THE AFRC ...Witness testifies at CDF Trial

Monday June 6, 2005

Witness TF 2-078 has told the war crimes tribunal in Freetown that the Civil Defence Force were ordered to burn down every house occupied by members of the AFRC junta and to seize and use any property belonging the RUF rebels or the AFRC. From Freetown, Tamba Borbor reports :

Witness disclose plans for Operation Black December' at Special Court
By Tamba Borbor from Freetown

In the joint trial of the three CDF indictees- Sam Hinga Norman, Alie Kondowa and Moinina Fofana, witness TF2-079 has disclosed plans for Operation Black December'.

The witness said that the National Co-ordinator- Chief Sam Hinga Norman called them to a meeting where he informed them of the operation which he said was going to take place thus: all supply route to the RUF would be cut off; felling of trees on major roads and feeder roads- for which purpose they were given power saw to cut down the trees. Also, bridges were to be dismantled.

The witness went on, "the operation was to be carried out simultaneously as all RUF bases were to be attacked. Civilians and Police collaborators are to be treated as common enemies; all houses occupied by the AFRC were to be burnt and properties including vehicles belonging to the RUF or AFRC and collaborators should be owned and used by the Kamajors." The witness further disclosed that another meeting was also held at Walihun II where most members were present including the War Council authorities- Orenco, Nallo and himself.

At that meeting the witness said, Hinga Norman told them that gravel, which the AFRC Junta had dug, should be washed, sold and the proceeds be brought to him. The 43-year-old man who is also a member of the CDF told the Court that he first saw the second and third accused in November when he went to Base Zero at Talia to request for arms and ammunition as their supply had drastically reduced. "When we arrived, we went to the house where Hinga Norman was residing but we were told he had gone to Liberia. We were introduced to the Director of War- Moinina Fofana who received us with open arms after we had told him about our purpose.

The next morning, he took us to the house of the High Priest- Alie Kondowa. We stayed at Base Zero for three days during which Hinga Norman came and we handed over the Situation Report to him. He advised that some men return back with the arms in and ammunition that was given to us." He said that the lives of the civilians were also danger as anyone caught travelling between Tongo and the Kamajor base was killed. "A lad travelling from Tongo to Panguma on foot was caught and butchered by the Kamajors. Around the vicinity of Tongo, palm wine tappers were also killed by Kamajors," he narrated.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 06 June 2005

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

5 June 2005 - Houston Chronicle

U.S. backs extradition of Liberia's ex-president / Official says the `time has come' for Taylor to leave Nigeria and stand trial for war crimes

DANIEL BALINT-KURTI, Associated Press

CALABAR, NIGERIA - 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, a move now supported by the United States.

Taylor vowed upon his departure to return to **Liberia**, but his spokesman, Vaani Paasawe, says a return to power is the last thing on Taylor's mind. Paasawe also said Taylor would break a long media blackout and hold a press conference Aug. 11.

Local Media – Newspapers

Taylor's Al Qaida Link Identified

(The News)

- According to *Daily Observer*, one of the FBI's most wanted persons, Mustafa Mohammed Fadhil is the link between former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the Al Qaida terrorist group.