

**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:**

Wednesday, June 08, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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Awoko. Wednesday June 8, 2005.

## Hinga Norman face 28 days ban

The troubles of former Internal Affairs Minister Chief Sam Hinga Norman seem to continue even as he is incarcerated at the Special Court. On Tuesday, the Acting Registrar of the Special Court Robert Kirkwood issued an order banning the former Kamajor boss from receiving telephone calls and visitors including family members for

28 days. According to the order, only his legal representatives are to see the Special Court indictee. This ban came about after Hinga Norman admitted being one of the authors of a letter written to SLPP supporters canvassing them not to support President Kabbah and Vice President Berewa. This letter was

published by several newspapers. This is regarded as a violation of the Detention Rules and Regulations. This order is in line with Rule 47 of the Rules of Detention which make allowance for restrictions to be set. Hinga Norman can however appeal this decision. This is the second time that such restrictions have been imposed on Norman

Salone Times. Wednesday June 8, 2005.

## 28 Days Communication Ban On Norman

*Phileas Jusu*

*Using the Rules of Detention of the Special Court, the Acting Registrar of the Special Court, Sierra Leone has issued an order restricting former internal Affairs Minister and National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces Chief Sam Hinga Norman from communicating to the public for twenty-eight days effective Monday June 7, 2005.*

This latest order issued against the Special Court indictee is in relation to a letter purportedly written by chief Sam Hinga Norman that was circulated to some media houses last week.

The said letter published in a local tabloid last week ordered all Mende and former Kamajors to restrain from entering into any political arrangement with President Kabbah and presidential aspirant VP Berewa. The letter went ahead to put a curse on any Mende and or Kamajor that would enter into such arrangements.

The Special Court's Chief of Press and Public Affairs Peter Andersen in a telephone conversation yesterday told SALONE TIMES that the Acting Registrar issued the order after conducting an fraternal investigation in which Chief Norman acknowledged that he wrote the letter.

Andersen said this is not the first time that Chief Norman is facing such ban. In January 2004, Chief Norman was kept incommunicado for 14 days after making statements that had the potential of creating civil unrest.

Andersen said, Chief Norman, has been accordingly informed about his ban. Asked about Norman's response when this ban was explained to him, Andersen said "I don't know what his response was, Remember, he's been warned several times in the past from making statements that violate the Rules of Detention."

The Exclusive. Wednesday June 8, 2005.

## Visitors To Norman Banned For 28 Days

By Joseph Turay

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has imposed a twenty-eight day moratorium restricting all visitors including family members, to the CDF indictee Ghief Sam Hinga Norman.

The restriction comes, following a letter that was alleged to have been written by the Ali Norman, and which was published in some local tabloids in which he called on South-easterners not to in any way support the SLPP in any political arrangement ahead of 2007.

According to the letter, Mr Norman accused the SLPP government of being ungrateful the orchestrators of his incarceration and other CDF brass including Kodewa and Moinina Fofanah. He pronounced 'Hakeh' on any South-easterner who supports the SLPP in general and any SLPP candidate in particular, in the run up to 2007.

This according to Special Court sources, is the reason why the Acting Registrar of the court Robert Kirk Wood, decided to restrict everyone including even family members, from visiting Mr Norman for the next twenty-eight days. In a telephone conversation, the Deputy to the Press, and

Public Affairs Section of the Special Court, Peter Christian Anderson, confirmed that a letter of 28 days ban was indeed issued to the first accused on Monday by the Acting Registrar, restricting visitors from visiting him, except his lawyers.

Anderson said the letter allegedly written by the first accused has been out two months ago before it was recently published by some local tabloids. This decision Anderson said was taken under rule 47 of the rules governing the detention of persons awaiting trial or appeal before the court, which stipulates that "the registrar, acting on his own initiative or at the request of a judge or the prosecutor, may prohibit, regulate or set conditions for communications including the monitoring of telephone calls and may prohibit, regulate or set conditions on visits between a detainee and any other persons if there are reasonable grounds for believing that such communications or visits, "could prejudice or otherwise undermine the outcome of the proceedings against the detainee or any other proceedings." etc. The ban takes effect 6th June, 2005.

The News. Wednesday June 8, 2005.

## Special Court gets new Principal Defender

Vincent O. Nmehielle, a Nigerian professor, has been named Principal Defender at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

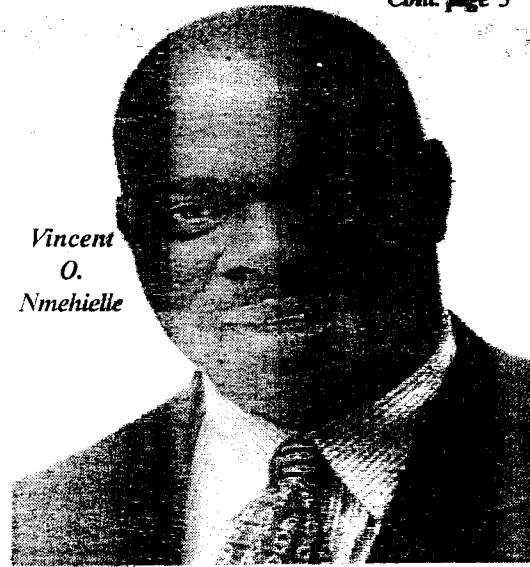
Nmehielle has extensive experience in both criminal defence and academic law. In 1990 he received his B.L. (Barrister at Law) degree from the Nigerian Law School, and was called to the Bar the same year.

He received an LL.M. (Master of Laws) 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.

Mr. Nmehielle has been a

*Cont. page 3*



Vincent  
O.  
Nmehielle

## Special Court gets new Principal Defender

*From front page*  
barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria since 1990, where he practices law in the firm of Orlu & Company, while lecturing at the Faculty of Law of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

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

Since February 2002, Mr. Nmehielle has been

an Associate Professor for Law at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He also held the post of Professional Lecturer in Law, where he taught at the Oxford/George Washington University Joint Programme in International Human Rights Law of 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 Monaschian, who announced her intention to leave the Court last February. Ms. Monaschian remained at the Court through May, and served on the panel, which chose her successor.



## Ecowas Needs to Think Twice

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

EDITORIAL

June 6, 2005

Posted to the web June 7, 2005

EXILED FORMER PRESIDENT, Charles Ghankay Taylor, was taken out of the way on August 11, 2003 as head of state of Liberia in order to end the nearly six-year-old blood-letting that was by then exacting its final tolls in the nation's capital, Monrovia.

Many at the time, including ECOWAS, UN, and the governments of Britain, U.S., and France, and all those concerned about peace in the ECOWAS subregion knew that Taylor's departure was the linchpin for the cessation of hostilities and the beginning of the marathon to peace and reconstruction. Not much was known about what went on behind the scenes to get the then intransigent, firebrand Taylor to leave Liberia under the escort of presidents Kuffour of Ghana, Obasanjo of Nigeria, Mbeki of South Africa, and Chissano of Mozambique, besides the fact that he had escaped arrest two months earlier in Ghana for his role in the Sierra Leonean civil war.

IT WAS UNTIL recently when it dawned on President Obasanjo that the eradication of impunity was a crucial part of efforts to forestall the spread of violence in the ECOWAS subregion and to send a caveat to Liberian warlords that intransigence would be punished that he divulged to the world that he signed a pact with AU, ECOWAS, U.S., and UK leaders that Taylor would remain in Calabar under Nigeria's protective custody. The Nigerian president has since held his gun that he will turn Taylor over only to an elected Liberian government in spite of what those who signed the pact with him think or what the new reality dictates.

MEANWHILE, TAYLOR, WHO according to the so-called pact should be restrained in Calabar from undermining peace in Liberia or elsewhere as Nigeria's part of the bargain against Taylor's extradition to Sierra Leone is allegedly still meddling in the peace process and in politics in Liberia. Persistent reports claimed he was in Burkina Faso recently to confer with some of his cronies inside Liberia besides making attempts on the life of President Lassanah Conteh of Guinea. These reported political and security breaches should have effectively ended and nullified Taylor's protective custody agreement, but Nigeria has been evasive about them while arguing that its perceived national honor surpasses anything that may set the subregion back to chaos.

UNFORTUNATELY THIS SORT of attitude by President Obasanjo is believed to be receiving the subtle backing of ECOWAS and this is creating uneasiness inside Sierra Leone and amongst ordinary West Africans and human rights advocates worldwide. In a statement of regret recently, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) said it was unfortunate that ECOWAS would back Nigeria's efforts to link the unrelated events of Taylor's court appearance in Sierra Leone and the peace process in Liberia. The JPC believes shielding Taylor in the name of peace in Liberia would fuel violent conflicts in the subregion. Also in a statement recently Taylor's former cabinet minister, Sam Jackson, argued that Taylor's arraignment before the UN-backed Special Court in Freetown was crucial to the reestablishment of peace and confidence between

Liberia and Sierra Leone and within the Mano River Union Basin. A group of Sierra Leonean civil and human rights advocates agreed with Jackson in a recent petition to the UNSC: "Finally, we re-echo our fears to President Obasanjo that peace in Liberia without justice in Sierra Leone is not a durable peace in the Mano River Basin and in the subregion." Not surprisingly for obvious reasons, not even a UN-NTGL-ECOWAS Coordination Mechanism meeting ECOWAS hosted last month in Abuja missed this point: "Taylor's return [to Liberia] under any guise would threaten Liberia's stability." WE HAVE NO idea what other advice, foresight, and evidence of Taylor's machination while in its custody Nigeria needs to de-link his 17-count indictment for torture, rape, abduction, kidnap, and crimes against humanity under international and Sierra Leonean laws and his continued trouble-shooting activities inside Liberia and neighboring countries. Does the Nigerian government believe that it can do honor to its vanguard role as a major peace broker by bringing Taylor back to Liberia thereby shifting the illusive burden of extraditing Taylor to an infant government in Liberia and opening the path back to square one? We think not. Instead, this is what we think Nigeria can do: impress upon the international community, if it can, that the seeking to fight impunity in the West African civil nightmare will compromise the peace gained thus far and then use the leverage of that argument to augment its influence as a key government in West Africa and as member of the board of the special court to scrap the charges against Taylor.

Until this is done, we have no doubt that by its present position on impunity and Taylor's trial, Nigeria is stabbing itself in the back to the surprise of many of its admirers.

THIS IS WHY we think ECOWAS needs to think twice before giving Nigeria its backing which in any case will only complicate the issue, leading to the endless or cyclic search for peace in this region. Instead of backing Nigeria perhaps on the basis of African solidarity, which since 1964 has brought African countries nothing but socio-political and economic woes that include unpayable debts, ECOWAS should encourage Obasanjo to seek new arrangements regarding Taylor's exile given that conditions have changed drastically since August 11, 2003 when Taylor's departure meant everything.

FAILURE TO DO so, we are afraid, is to set the stage for a future of widespread violence that will stretch from Mauritania to the Cameroon.

Tipoteh Predicts Victory For LPP, UPP Alliance Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh, presidential hopeful of the Liberia People Party (LPP) says the unity between LPP and the United People' Party (UPP), now known as the Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD), will help them emerge victorious during the October 2005 general and presidential election.

Dr. Tipoteh said that with more than 300,000 members in LPP and UPP plus thousands of non-party supporters all over Liberia, the ADP has the best chance for victory in the upcoming election.

DR. Tipoteh made this declaration over the weekend when he addressed the APD workshop held last Saturday at the G.W. Gibson High School.

Dr. Tipoteh also said the APD has a mandate to unite and lead the nation. He further told the workshop participants that the APD has already begun carrying out its mandate and will continue to do so.

Liberia People Party Standard Bearer further praised the work of APD executive committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Marcus Dahn and motivated the participants to hold together during the political period.

Liberia: Will Bush and Blair finally take action against indicted war criminal a

June 7 2005

Press Release - Global Witness

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.

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 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. 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.

"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."



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## HINGA NORMAN INCOMMUNICADO ONCE AGAIN

: Special Court pulls plug on telephone and visitation

Tuesday June 7, 2004

The Acting Registrar of the Special Court yesterday issued an order restricting the communications of Sam Hinga Norman for the period of 28 days. During the period, Mr. Norman will be barred from making and receiving telephone calls and receiving visits, from his legal representatives.

The action, taken under Article 47(A)(v) of the Rules of Detention, came after the publication of a letter of a political nature signed by Mr. Norman and, apparently, by his two co-accused, which recently appeared in the local press. Mr. Norman acknowledged having written the letter.

Mr. Norman has the option of appealing the Acting Registrar's decision to the President of the Special Court (Justice Fernando).

Mr. Norman had his communications similarly restricted in January 2004 following the interception of a telephone communication which "indicated his involvement in coordinating activities calculated to cause unrest in Sierra Leone." (21 January 2004 statement)

Mr. Norman and his two co-accused each face an 8-count indictment of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.



## U.N. battles war crimes deadline

**UNITED NATIONS (AP) -- The U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia won't finish its work by the Security Council's 2008 target date because key fugitives remain at large and new indictees have been brought before the court, a report from the tribunal has said.**

The Tuesday report to the Security Council again criticized Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian leaders for failing to turn over Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his top general, Ratko Mladic.

Karadzic and Mladic have been on the run since they were indicted by the tribunal for genocide and other war crimes allegedly committed during the 1992-95 Bosnian war, including the Srebrenica massacre.

Karadzic is believed to be hiding in the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia, and Mladic in neighboring Serbia.

The Security Council has set out a timetable for the Yugoslav tribunal and the tribunal prosecuting those responsible for the 1994 Rwanda genocide to complete all trials by 2008 and finish appeals by 2010.

The Yugoslav tribunal president, Theodor Meron, said elsewhere in the report that another obstacle to finishing trials by the 2008 target is that several more indictees have been brought before the court and must be processed.

Meron said the tribunal can't cut corners at the expense of "due process and human rights norms in order to move faster."

He said trials would run into at least 2009 but would not give further details.

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