

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:

Thursday, June 09, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Awoko. Thursday June 9th, 2005.

Berewa speaks on CDF indictments

We never imagined CDF would face Special Court

By Kelvin Lewis

Vice President Solomon Ekuma Berewa has told Awoko that during the planning and setting up of the Special Court he and his boss (President Kabbah) never imagined that members of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) would be candidates for trial at the courts. Questioned



L-R Hans Correl UN Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs and AG Solomon Berewa at the signing of the Special Court agreement at State House

by Awoko on whether they had envisaged the involvement of the CDF in the Special Court, the former Attorney General said "To be honest with you ... eh ... to be very frank with you, I never ... because I didn't

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We never imagined CDF would face Special Court

From Front Page

know how they were operating. Mind you they were held out to us as just acting in defence of the nation giving protection to this country. So it never crossed my mind that even one person in the CDF would have committed a child abuse in the statute of the court. I get it now only from the accounts I get in the papers and on the radio of the proceedings of the court. He went on "I remember the only people who knew what they were doing were then fellow Kamajors of CDF and it is they who are now giving evidence. Nobody else knew, no person who was not in the CDF - but one thing I would repeat I did not know and I don't think the President too ever imagined that the CDF would one day be one of the cuprits in the dock." Pressed on further whether as a lawyer he did not have any inclination that the CDF would be tried, the Vice

President maintained "I knew people of the RUF and AFRC were going to be indicted at the special court because they were the ones I knew who were committing atrocities. The ones we knew who were notorious for the atrocities, whom I thought were the ones that were going to be netted in this thing, were the RUF particularly and to some extent the AFRC as well. And I say the AFRC because I prosecuted those extra judicial executions of those two men I saw all of that. I had a small taste of the evidence because I prosecuted some cases. There was nothing like that for the CDF so I had no basis to assume that the CDF were doing anything that would bring them in the compass of the court. I did not know or imagine that they would bear the greatest responsibilities in the sense of the crimes that were listed." Vice President Berewa went on to give the background on how the

Special Court came in to being saying "I negotiated the peace agreement for the government in Lome. I resisted any suggestion for us to introduce into the peace agreement a judicial mechanism for sustaining the peace because there was a very strong lobby from these international human rights organizations that unless there was a judicial mechanism to review the events of the war we are not going to have sustainable peace." He went on "I was of the belief, which was shared by the president as well, that all we needed really was to silence the guns and go about our normal business and all would be well with us. Some question of the call for a tribunal we resisted that" he said. Recalling the events leading to the call for the Special Court he said "We all know how it happened and what caused it. We know Sankoh came they were given all they were entitled to, ministerial appointments and

so on, and they were treated better than myself. At his quarters at Spur Road 20 something people were gunned down and despite the amnesty that were given to them they were kidnaping, taking UN soldiers as hostage and threatening people. After the incidence there it became apparent that just signing the peace agreement and giving amnesty would not give us peace. So the only thing that would give us peace is if there was an

accountability mechanism put in place like the judicial process. That led to the president asking the United Nations Secretary General to put in place a judicial mechanism to address the ills that have occurred during the war. Then the process of course led to the Special Court. The Special Court like all courts, have agreements and statutes providing that it was to be an independent and autonomous court. It was not to be subject to the direction, control, authority

or dictation of anybody within Sierra Leone or outside Sierra Leone. It was to be free to do its work. It was taken to cabinet and all the ministers there then deliberated on it and agreed with it and we did the ceremonial signing at State House. The highest legal authority in the UN was present. As a government we could not dictate anything to it and it started functioning and they started picking people we did not expect them to pick. What could we do as a government?" he asked.

New Vision. Thursday June 9th, 2005.

Dilemma Over Taylor

There is a big tussle between the International Community and ECOWAS over the bundling of warlord Charles Taylor to Freetown to face

trials for igniting the rebel war not only in Sierra Leone.

Reports, authoritative, reveal that ECOWAS, renowned for its hot and cold stance on sensitive

issues in the sub-region, has been loudly clamouring for Taylor's extradition for human right's violations while at the dead of night favour Nigeria's

insistence on protecting Taylor from being indicted.

The Justice and Peace
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Charles Taylor

Dilemma Over Taylor

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Commission based in Monrovia, Liberia is said to be fuming over this double standards practised by ECOWAS which is supposed to be the guardian and overseer of the sub region.

According to inside sources, this downplay by ECOWAS is an outright neglect and ploy to fan more wind of discord in a region that is stealthily moving towards sustainable peace.

Taylor's continued stay in Nigeria is said to be a threat to peace in the sub-region as it is said that Taylor is economically and politically active while in his make-believe asylum.

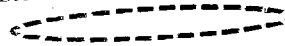
It was expected that ECOWAS, whose membership tasted some fire from Taylor's sponsored guns should have been the spearhead to have him tried for

crimes which caused incomparable atrocities in the once peaceful West African coast.

This nocturnal move by ECOWAS, as alleged, will result in another fueling of violence, instability and unrest in West Africa, the Justice and Peace Commission concluded.

The International Community has hammered the nail to jet Charles Taylor to Freetown to answer to charges of his inhuman acts. Charles, a suspected terrorist has been linked with terrorist organisations and could be a python in the forest if given the slightest chance.

Taylor is to answer to a 17-court charge for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the turmoil in Sierra Leone.



The Exclusive. Thursday June 9th, 2005.

...Global Witness Urges Bush & Blair

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 dia-

monium and other minerals to drive countries in West Africa further into poverty. The profits from conflict resources were used to fund rebel

forces in Sierra Leone who were supported financially and militarily by Taylor and who were internationally notorious for their horrendous war crimes including

the killing of women and children. Resources trading continues to be at the heart of a number of conflicts in Africa including Sudan and Democratic Re-

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...Global Witness Urges Bush & Blair

From front page

public 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 Guinea's 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 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 efforts 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. Say Simon Taylor, this ridiculous situation makes a mockery of Bush's stated policy of promoting democracy and freedom especially in Africa and the urgently needs to sort out the chaos that is allowing Taylor to slip through the net.

The Exclusive. Thursday June 9th 2005.

As Obasanjo Remains Adamant... Taylor Violates UN Travel Ban

Charles Taylor Cassell, the wife of convicted murderer Herman Cassell, the senior Immigration Officer who shot and killed a taxi driver in

Monrovia for allegedly over-taking his vehicle, was said to have impressed the president so much that they appeared in public many times

and took several photos through the window of the Executive Mansion in Abuja.

Foreign Affairs. He wonders the Nigerian president told the world that day one that he would not surrender Taylor. Nigeria will

not be harassed into surrendering Charles Taylor. Mr. Obasanjo told a gathering at Taylor's disgraceful departure ceremonies held at the Execu-

tive Mansion in Monrovia on August 11, 2003, while rebel forces were poised for their final push on the bloody dic-

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Taylor Violates UN Travel Ban

From front page

tator. Using the so called Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord to back his action, President Obasanjo maintains, the asylum granted Charles Taylor by Nigeria was based on an agreement reached by the international community to prevent a blood bath in Liberia. But Taylor's asylum was granted on condition that he would not interfere in Liberian politics, a promise Taylor has now broken. President Obasanjo has however, repeatedly said he would hand over Taylor to an elected government in Liberia upon request. But because Charles Taylor is now clearly interfering in Liberia's domestic politics by supporting a particular Presidential candidate, thereby contravening his asylum status with impunity, and

given our experience in the role Nigeria played in Taylor's 1997 election victory, it is doubtful such a hand over will ever take place.

And reports that Taylor recently travelled to Bunka Faso to concur with his choice for President despite a United Nations travel ban, created even more suspicion about Abuja's role in the Taylor asylum issue.

The former warlord's failure to desist from interfering in Liberian politics in line with his status is further evidenced by the fact that his former legal counsel and a candidate for the standard bearer of his (Taylor) National Patriotic Front party, Francis Garlawolo, has withdrawn from the race, accusing Taylor of interference. The UN Mission in Liberia has also

catalogued a number of allegations that Charles Taylor is meddling in Liberian politics, but President Obasanjo sees the man who killed a huge but unknown number of Nigerian peace-keepers from a different perspective, obviously allowing his commitment to Taylor as his brother-in-law to overshadow his responsibility as president of a regional power.

The issue of bringing Taylor to justice has become increasingly popular in the global community, and that did not happen by chance. Charles Taylor celebrated his 1997 election victory over the bones and skulls of more than 250,000 Liberians and in neighbouring Sierra Leone, over the permanent misery of thousands chopped off by Taylor-backed rebels of the notorious Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

The Exclusive. Thursday June 9th, 2005.

...As ECOWAS Does Not Want Taylor Turned Over

Culled From: The Analyst Newspaper-Monrovia

By George Bereh

The National Director of the Catholic-run Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) Atty Augustine Toe, says there are reports from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

through its Ambassador to Liberia, suggesting that ECOWAS does not want former Liberian President Charles Taylor to be turned over to the UN-backed Sierra Leone War Crime Court for prosecution on war crime

charges.

As suggested by the ECOWAS Ambassador accredited to this nation, if news reports attributed to him are correct, we believe at the JPC that the action of the ECOWAS authority not

to turn over Taylor is an outright defiance to international justice."

He stressed that as a sub-regional body that continues to foster peace and stability in the subregion, ECOWAS should have been the first organization to hand over Taylor to court to answer to



Pres. Abubakar



Charles Taylor

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...As ECOWAS Does Not Want Taylor Turned Over

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crimes he has allegedly committed in Sierra Leone. The JPC boss warned that backing Charles Taylor not to answer to alleged crimes was another way of fueling violence in the subregion. He then called on the Nigerian government to do everything humanly possible to turn exiled President Taylor to the UN-backed Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone. To link the peace process in Liberia to the surrendering of Mr. Taylor to answer to alleged crimes committed in Sierra Leone, we think is unfortunate. Atty Toe said. The JPC boss argued that the exiled former Liberian leader has not been indicted for crimes he allegedly committed in Liberia but stressed that

Taylor has been indicted for crimes he allegedly committed in Sierra Leone.

"It has nothing to do with the Republic of Liberia. So no man should link Taylor's surrender to Sierra Leone to the peace process that is obtaining in Liberia," he noted. Atty Toe said for ECOWAS to stand on the side of not allowing Charles to answer to crimes against him was a slap in the face of justice.

He made the statement yesterday when he addressed reporters at his office in Monrovia. The JPC boss noted the subregion should not encourage what was unfolding, adding that if Taylor is not turned over to the court that would spark another round of violence.

Atty. Toe also disclosed that Nigeria has been giving Taylor the liberty to move about

at his (Taylor) pleasure. He believes this is against the truce that led to his exile.

The Nigerian leader argued that Mr. Charles Taylor was only given a sanctuary in Nigeria based on international negotiations, he noted.

But the human rights lawyer also noted that Taylor has broken these international negotiations by taking part in the affairs of Liberia indirectly. He then said Taylor should not be given protection against crimes he has allegedly committed in Sierra Leone.

According to him, ECOWAS would be doing disservice to the victims of the Sierra Leone's war which Taylor was said to have financially sponsored and backed.

He warned that if Taylor was not turned over to the court, the peace process in Liberia could be on a sinking sand.

The New Storm. Thursday June 9th 2005.

Special Court Slams Ban on Norman



Chief Norman

The Assistant Chief of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Peter C. Anderson confirmed yesterday that the Registrar of the court has passed an order banning all communication and visit to the detained Chief Hinga Norman for violating detention rules.

The former Kamajor chief,

Mr. Anderson said, acknowledged on Saturday that he wrote the letter, which the Standard Times newspaper published last week.

The letter which warned South easterners not to enter in to any political arrangement with President Kabbah and his vice was said to be in violation of the detention or-

der for which Mr. Norman will be ex-communicated for twenty eight day beginning last Monday.

By implication, only his lawyers will have access to him. Mr. Anderson however opined that Mr. Norman could appeal against the ruling. This is the second time since his detention in 2003; Mr. Norman has defaulted detention orders. Last year he was ex-communicated for fourteen days for sending out potentially dangerous message

HINGA NORMAN DEFENCE MAY FILE MOTION FOR ACQUITTAL

Wednesday June 8, 2005

The Prosecution in the war crimes trials of former Civil Defence Force (CDF) leaders Chief Hinga Norman, Allieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofana is soon to rest its case, paving the way for the beginning of the Defence's case.

The three men are on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity emanating from the bloody Sierra Leone war which killed over 50, 000 people and left a colony of amputees.

The Prosecution is busy tying up its case with some expert witnesses testifying and it is expected that by the end of the month, they would have rested their case. Then will follow what many Sierra Leoneans have been waiting for--How the accused plan to defend themselves against the serious charges against them that have been recounted in court by Prosecution witnesses.

The first likely outcome will be a motion to dismiss by defence attorneys. They will likely argue that the Prosecution did not provide sufficient evidence to link the accused men to the atrocities committed. They may also base their motion on issues of legal technicalities.

In anticipation of this motion, which is a normal procedure in Law, often after the presentation of the Prosecution's case, the Special Court's Trial Chamber has released SCSL Document # 04-14-T-419, which provides instructions to the Defence about how this motion is to be filed and the length of the document.

The Trial Chamber will hear the motion on September 16, 2005 if it is ever filed.

New York Times

Editorial

June 9, 2005

Prosecuting Charles Taylor

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.

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.

A new report by the Coalition for International Justice, however, supports the argument that Mr. Taylor can be prosecuted because his crimes are continuing. 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.

African leaders, mindful that their hands are less than clean, are nervous about turning over a former fellow president to a serious tribunal. The United States had also not pushed Nigeria until recently. Late last month, Washington endorsed surrendering Mr. Taylor, based on the new information that he is still an active threat. Washington has spent some \$800 million on the Special Court and on attempts to rebuild Liberia. Neither effort will fully succeed until Charles Taylor is behind bars.

Budget Committee approves \$3.2 billion for 2005-2006 peacekeeping, as it concludes resumed session GA/AB/3681

Fifty-ninth General Assembly
Fifth Committee
57th Meeting (AM)

Also Recommends to General Assembly Comprehensive Text Aimed at Strengthening Peacekeeping Management, Administration

-SNIP-

Acting on special political missions, good offices and other political institutions authorized by the Assembly and the Security Council, the Committee recommended the appropriation of some \$24.2 million for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

-SNIP-

By the terms of part II, estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political institutions authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, the Assembly would take note of the reports of the Secretary-General's and the ACABQ concerning the Secretary-General's request for additional funding relating to the expansion of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and for the subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Endorsing the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Assembly would decide to appropriate an amount of some \$24.2 million under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2004-2005 programme budget for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the Special Court. It would also decide to appropriate some \$377,200 under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section I, Income from staff assessment, of the 2004-2005 programme budget.

-SNIP-

By further terms, noting the Secretary-General's request for an additional subvention of \$13 million to supplement the Special Court's financial resources for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2005, the Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$13 million to supplement the financial resources for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2005 on the understanding that any regular budget funds appropriated for the Court would be refunded to the United Nations at the time of the Court's liquidation, should sufficient voluntary contributions be received. The Secretary-General would also be requested to provide relevant information regarding the use of funds appropriated from the Court's regular budget in the context of the second performance report for the 2004-2005 programme budget. The Secretary-General is also asked to keep Member States informed about the Court's completion strategy.

Acting without a vote, the Committee approved the draft resolution.