

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Tuesday, 14 July 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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We Want to Strengthen Nigeria's Economy - U.S. Ambassador

Daily Trust (Abuja)

INTERVIEW

July 12, 2005

Posted to the web July 12, 2005

US Ambassador John Campbell is a diplomat who is more concern with the Nigeria-US relations. He will prefer a long discussion on how to improve the ties between the two nations rather than discussions on terrorism and al-Qaeda threats or the US activities in Iraq and Afghanistan. In this interview, the envoy expresses his discontentment to Daily Trust's Jibrin Abubakar over the concentration of the trade relations on oil and gas, but adds that Nigeria is a very important nation to the US. Excerpts:

---SNIP---

Recently at a BBC interview, the UN chief prosecutor in Sierra Leone, Dasmond da Silva said it was time Nigeria allows Taylor to face trial, since he has violated his term of stay. What is the response of the US?

The position of the United States is that Charles Taylor should answer before the special court for the crimes for which he is accused. We are having talks with the Nigerian government as well as the international community on how it can be best done.

---SNIP---



Organization Claims to Have Evidence On Charles Taylor

The Independent (Freetown)

NEWS

July 13, 2005

Posted to the web July 13, 2005

An organization called Liberia United For Transparent Election says it has evidence on Charles Taylor's activities that prove that he is a threat to peace in the sub region.

Charles Taylor is wanted by the Special Court for War Crimes in Freetown, but the Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has refused to hand him over claiming that the asylum granted him was in consultation with the international community including the United States. Taylor has been accused of also meddling with the current politics of Liberia and visiting Burkina Faso for reasons suspected to be inimical to security in the sub region.

The organization says on several occasions it has contacted officials of the Nigerian Foreign Ministry and presented to them documents detailing Charles Taylor's current meddling activities which include money he has paid to political parties and candidates contesting the Liberia elections and meetings he held with Guinean dissidents in the last week in December 2004. "In that document we included date, time, place and amount paid directly by Mr. Taylor to carry out an operation against Guinea and the names of the Guinean dissidents involved. We also made mentioned in that document the places in and outside Nigeria where Mr. Taylor had made unofficial visits", Sam Sanyon director of the organization states in a press release emailed to The Independent.

He also states that they gave the Nigerian Government detailed information on several West African dissidents that are living with Charles Taylor in Calabar and other States in Nigeria., adding that the information include names, addresses and phone numbers.

Charles Taylor is suspected of funding some political parties in Liberia to contest the forthcoming elections so as to have an overwhelming influence in the next government.

"We at the Liberian United for Transparent Election are taken aback by statement made by President Obasanjo who is also Chairman of the African Union on July 4 2005 in Libya that he objected strongly to persistent pressures from certain quarters in the International Community demanding Nigeria hand over former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the international Criminal Court sitting in Sierra Leone", the release states.

"President Obasanjo's statement is a clear indication that he will continue to shelter Taylor from justice, deprive we the peace -loving people of Liberia and Sierra Leone the peace, security and, justice that we need in our region", it adds.

"We are surprise Nigeria is asking for new evidences when we have presented the Foreign Ministry with

mounting evidences about Charles Taylor's activities in and out side Nigeria".

The release continues: "For the cause of Liberia, we are ready to meet anyone from the Nigerian Foreign Ministry anywhere in the world to give that Government all that it needs to prove that Charles Taylor has not been a peaceful refugee".

It points out: "We also know that there are countries in the Region that Charles is involved in its destruction but they are afraid .. We are afraid that President Obasanjo as he publicly stated on record that if a duly elected Government in Liberia requests Taylor to be returned, he will do so and Taylor is now funding that Government to get elected", it concludes.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 July 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**U.N. Rights Chief Should Call for Taylor's Surrender**

Source: Human Rights Watch

(New York, July 13, 2005) During her visit to West Africa this week, the United Nations' top human rights official, Louise Arbour, should press for ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor's surrender to the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity said today.

13/07/2005 10:57:51

UN rights chief calls for former Liberian leader to be tried for war crimes

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ Ousted President Charles Taylor should be handed over to a U.N. tribunal for trial on war crimes charges related to the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone, the U.N. human rights chief said Wednesday.

``He's indicted. He should go to Freetown. He should face charges," Louise Arbour said as she wrapped up a five-day trip to Liberia and headed to Sierra Leone.

**Also reported by AFP*

Organization Claims to Have Evidence On Charles Taylor

13 Jul, 2005 (The Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --An organization called Liberia United For Transparent Election says it has evidence on Charles Taylor's activities that prove that he is a threat to peace in the sub region.

The organization says on several occasions it has contacted officials of the Nigerian Foreign Ministry and presented to them documents detailing Charles Taylor's current meddling activities which include money he has paid to political parties and candidates contesting the Liberia elections and meetings he held with Guinean dissidents in the last week in December 2004.

International Clips on West Africa

Top UN Rights Official in Sierra Leone

13 Jul, 2005 (The Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour is in Freetown as part of her tour to three West African countries emerging from armed conflict.

In Sierra Leone, Ms. Arbour meets Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, head of the UN Mission in the country (UNAMSIL), and with other UN officials. She also meets with President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. On 15 July she heads to a centre for amputee and war-wounded, before meeting local authorities and human rights groups.

Local Media – Newspapers

Taylor Linked to Arms Smuggling Operation in Liberia

(New Democrat)

- Justice Ministry officials have told *New Democrat* they have uncovered an arms smuggling operation in Liberia to which former President Charles Taylor is linked. The operation is reportedly being controlled by a Togolese man with two Liberian diplomatic passports issued during the Taylor administration that bear fake names.

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.

Special Court... **Class II pupil discloses how a rebel impregnated her**

By Betty Milton

In her evidence before the Trial Chamber of the Special Court. Prosecution witness. TFI-014 has narrated how she

was raped by a rebel, which eventually left her pregnant. The witness who could not ascertain her age said they were attacked by the rebels and some members of the

Sierra Leone Army (SLA) in August 1998 at Bamukura village in the Koinadugu District. "When the attack occurred, all the civilians fled into the bush to seek refuge."

the witness said. But the rebels she explained captured her parents and took them in a house where they were taken away and

Contd. Page 2

From Front Page

killed. "My cousin who was also captured together with my parents, informed me that they had been killed, so I went to the place where I saw my father's head lying after been chopped off. My mother too was laying their dead," she said. The witness went on to say that Andrew, who was a rebel, later captured her. During the time of her capture, the witness noted that she was in class II and had not even reached puberty. "We were taken to Yemadugu where I was

raped by Andrew. I would have been killed if I had refused him. After the raping, I later realized that I was pregnant. I used to launder and do other menial jobs for him as I was with him for a very long time," the witness narrated. During their stay she said, the civilians both men and women were trained in the use of weapons by a man called Oganmy brother. "The civilians again left Yemadugu for Bamukura as Superman had ordered that all the women in the village should be taken away as he maintained we were not allowing the boys to fight, she

explained further. The troops journeyed through various villages under the Command of Saj Musa until they stopped in Kamalo where Reverend Farther Mario was captured. the witness recounted. "Saj Musa ordered that the Forces should advance to Freetown. When we entered Waterloo, the women were queued up pregnant women, suckling mothers and then followed by Saj's group." Continuing, TFI-014 further stated that she was with the troops until they retreated to Makeni where she had a stillbirth. she told the Court.

Awoko
14 July 2005

Halloran judgement: No date yet

Contrary to a report yesterday in a local tabloid that judgment would be delivered, adjourning the matter after he and other panelists heard legal arguments from Lawyer



in the appeal lodged by former Special Court Investigator Peter Halloran. the story has proved to be a hoax. According to the leading Counsel for the appellant, Lawyer Nicholas Brown-Marke in a telephone interview with Awoko, he stated, "as I am talking to you, there is no notification about the judgment from the Appeals Court." Presiding Judge- Sir John Muria before Brown-Marke and Akie Barber for the State, said, "we shall do our best to deliver judgment before July 15th. That day is slated for the Appeals Court to proceed on vacation. Others that constitute the panel of Judges that listened to the legal arguments are: Justice Abel Strong and Justice Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh.

Awoko
14 July 2005

Cocorioko Website http://www.cocorioko.com/news_section

COCORIOKO EXCLUSIVE

SLPP insider tells Cocorioko a stunner

HINGA NORMAN TO CONTEST SLPP LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENCY

Thursday July 14, 2005

The Sierra Leone political scene will be set ablaze with disbelief within the next week or so as a rather surprising contender for the SLPP leadership and the Sierra Leone Presidency will be announced. A usually reliable SLPP insider yesterday put COCORIOKO in notice of the oncoming stunner that War Crimes indictee Hinga Norman will soon be entered as one of the candidates for the national throne.

Within the next 48 hours, the SLPP and the Registrar of the Special Court will receive notification of the Hinga Norman candidacy, according to the insider.

Calls made by this paper to the Spokesman of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Rev. Alfred Samforay, for clarification, have yet to be returned. But the insider spoke with confidence and insisted many times to COCORIOKO that he was not pulling anybody's legs.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Commentary:

By
Our North American
Correspondent

Losing an Advisor and a Mediator

The passing away of the Late Honorable Richard Edmond Sonny Lagawo (1923-2005), on Sunday June 12, 2005 at Loma Linda University Medical Center, California, USA may have left a gap in the role of an advisor and a mediator, both for his family and the current Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP). An

issue that maybe of concern is that of the plight of an honored and respected hero by the name of Sam Hinga Norman, who built up resistance against the brutality of the AFRC/RUF aggression. Thousands of lives were saved due to the early intervention by the Sierra Leone Civil Defense Force (CDF) in repelling the AFRC/RUF



Late Honorable Richard Edmond Sonny Lagawo (1923- 2005); Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP); Bo Town II

aggression. Whilst President Ahmed Tejan-Kabbah and late Honorable R.E.S Lagawo, including other members of the ousted SLPP government were seeking refuge in Conakry, Guinea, it was Sam Hinga Norman and the CDF who bravely stood to provide homeland security for the vulnerable local population that were left behind. As a word of courage for the CDF to endure the war, late Honorable R. E. S Lagawo told the CDF Commander, Sam Hinga Norman, to fight the AFRC/RUF aggression in a manner, similar to that of Sierra Leone's former warriors (Kailondo & Ndaawa), Sam Hinga Norman, who is still in custody of the "Special Court", expressed a reflection of those



(In the middle is CDF commander Sam Hinga Norman, during his visit to Atlanta, GA, USA after redeeming the SLPP government from the AFRC/RUF aggression)

phrases about two years ago from his place of captivity in Bonthe Island, Sierra Leone. At that time, Sam Hinga Norman wanted the late R.E.S. Lagawo to reflect on the Kailondo & Ndaawa analogy and whether the Special Court captivity is his reward for fighting like Kailondo & Ndaawa.

Apart from giving political advice to President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, the late R.E.S Lagawo was also an advisor for the CDF and mediated on several occasions to settle political and security differences between President

Kabbah and Sam Hinga Norman. As a potential defense witness for Sam Hinga Norman, there was no doubt that his testimony would have exonerated Sam Hinga Norman from the "Special Court" allegations. Reflecting on his life up to the time of his death at Loma Linda University Medical Center, California, the late R.E.S Lagawo told his daughter Rosaline Lagawo (commonly called "Baby 2"), who provided care at his bedside that:

"Friendship is more than money and it's always nice to show gratitude to people

that have helped you" (R.E.S. Lagawo, Sunday, June 12, 2005).

How this piece of advice plays in the Sam Hinga Norman, SLPP and special Court quagmire remains to be seen. The fact however is that the SLPP and Sierra Leone has lost a respectable Advisor and a Mediator. While he lived Pa Lagawo was an Honourable man indeed. May His Soul Rest In Peace



Rosaline Lagawo (commonly called Baby 2), Colton, California, USA. She was the first to respond to the death of her dad (late R.E.S Lagawo) at Loma Linda University Medical Center, California, USA on Sunday, June 12, 2005

Awoko
14 July 2005

Editorial

Was TRC Worth the Candle?

At the end of it all it is necessary to wonder whether the establishment of the Commission was necessary judging by the results it has come up with. Were we just aping the establishment of such commissions in other countries? A government White Paper on the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been published without the availability to the public of the black Paper (the Report itself). It amounts to using white keys of a piano without the black keys resulting in an absence of harmony.

It would appear that the Commissioners were either not au fait with the 1991 Constitution or felt they should reiterate some of its provisions for the purposes of drawing attention to their importance especially if successive governments had largely ignored it in the past.

It is realistic to note that while government accepted the views of the Commission's Report that "the respect for human dignity and human rights must begin with the respect for human life..." it nonetheless disagreed with their recommendation for the abolition of the death penalty.

Aside from our recent emergence from a decade-long armed conflict it seemed to have been forgotten that Sierra Leoneans have demonstrated their contempt for human life judging by the heinous and unprecedented killings during the war.

Government's acceptance of the view of the Commission pertaining to good governance is noted but the assurance that its leadership is committed to setting the highest standards in public and private life expected of all officials in positions of responsibility can be dismissed as gibberish considering the realities obtaining within government circles.

The operationalization of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to ensure transparency and accountability has not been done according to the probity expected. This is why public officials seen to be corrupt cannot be removed ostensibly under the cover of the Rule of Law.

Government did not accept the recommendation of the Commission on the separation of the office of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice giving specious reasons. One of these reasons that can be disposed of out of hand was the argument that the National Review Commission of 1990 had cause to fully deliberate on the separation of both offices and decided against it. But that was 15 years ago and in the light of new circumstances, and judging by the fact that other distinguished legal personalities had taken a second hard look at the question, the office ought to have been separated after all, constitutions are susceptible to amendments. How can we ascertain that the incumbent Attorney-General and Minister of Justice is a man of integrity? How can we prove that he does not perform any judicial functions or exercise any control over the judiciary when he can even insert clauses into a bill which has been passed by Parliament? It is a pity that government's commitment to the implementation of the Commission's recommendations on reparation for victims on whom the whole Commission rested was conditional. The White Paper said it would "ensure the full and timely implementation of various reparation programme recommended by the Commission.

Indeed the Commission was mainly to address victims' problems which were sadly put at the burners of the White Paper, incidentally in one of the last paragraphs. The White Paper devoted only two sentences to Reparation tacitly admitting negligence of the plight of the victims. They have been virtually victimized by government. Perpetrators of atrocities seem to have had a better deal with some of them fully employed even within the army-while victims languish in camps while living on handouts.

Government should have put premium on the victims' conditions even if the TRC report did not lay emphasis on it, but government can still do so by bringing forward the means available to the state.

Christian
Monitor
14 July 2005

New Deputy Prosecutor For Special Court

Dr Christopher Staker has been appointed Deputy Prosecutor for the Special Court of Sierra Leone to succeed Desmond de Silva, Queens Council.

It would be recalled that Desmond de Silva was appointed Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court to replace the outgoing American born David Crane.

Dr Staker's appointment as

Deputy Prosecutor was recommended by the government of Sierra Leone to fill the vacuum created by de Silva, who until his appointment as Chief Prosecutor was deputy to David Crane.

As a veteran legal luminary, Dr Staker has vast experience in international and public law.

He is a graduate from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and a doctorate in Public and International Law from Oxford.

Until his recent appointment, he served Counsel assisting the Solicitor-General in Australia, Principal Legal Secretary at the International Court of Justice and Senior Appeals Counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Trumpet
14 July 2005