

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, 15 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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U.N. rights chief urges trial for Liberia's Taylor

14 Jul 2005 11:24:51 GMT

Source: Reuters

Background

- CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?
- CRISIS PROFILE: W. Africa teeters between war and peace
- CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?

MONROVIA, July 14 (Reuters) - United Nations human rights chief Louise Arbour has called for former Liberian President Charles Taylor to stand trial in a war crimes court in Sierra Leone on charges of fomenting that country's 10-year civil war.

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Taylor went into exile in Nigeria in August 2003 under a deal to end years of civil war in Liberia.

Last year a special U.N.-backed tribunal indicted him on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for stoking a brutal conflict in Sierra Leone through an illicit trade in guns for diamonds.

Human rights campaigners have demanded Nigeria surrender him for trial, but Nigeria has said it will not extradite Taylor unless he is found to have broken the terms of his exile agreement.

Interfering in politics back home would be a breach of Taylor's exile agreement with the Nigerian government.

Last week Liberian Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh, himself a former rebel, accused Taylor of trying to destabilise his homeland from exile in the run-up to the elections -- which Taylor's spokesman in Nigeria denied.


Washington is pressing Nigeria to hand Taylor over for trial. After a five-day visit to Liberia, Arbour joined the growing chorus of calls to put the former warlord on trial.

"It was imperative for the peace process that he left the country. That's an old story now. Personally I think that one cannot always subordinate justice to peace -- that is a serious mistake," Arbour told Radio France Internationale, which broadcast her comments on Thursday, translated into French.

"You cannot have lasting peace without justice," she said.

Liberia is led by a transitional government ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections in October.

"It would not be right to make the new government ... decide whether Charles Taylor should go before the Sierra Leone court. He has been charged -- let him go to Freetown where he can face the accusations against him. If he's an honourable man he should go and defend himself," Arbour said.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

Newsdesk **NGO Latest**

- ▶ **ANGOLA:** Changing role of civil society must be supported by donors, report *(15 hours ago)*
Source: IRIN
- ▶ **U.N. rights chief urges trial for Liberia's Taylor** *(20 hours ago)*
Source: Reuters
- ▶ **NIGERIA:** Area Boys -- a growing menace on the streets of Lagos *(1 day ago)*
Source: IRIN
- ▶ **Liberian returnee camp closes as inhabitants go home** *(1 day ago)*
Source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- ▶ **Sierra Leone official diamond exports hit record** *(1 day ago)*
Source: Reuters

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Awoke

Friday July 15, 2005

CDF Trial:

Prosecution ends case

By Betty Milton

The prosecution team in the Civil Defence Force (CDF) trial against three indictees Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Alie Kondewa and Moinina Fofana on Thursday laid to rest its case at the Trial

Chamber No. 1 of the Special Court. The prosecution team, which stated its case almost two years ago, presented 67 witnesses on various sessions before the three trial judges; Pierre Boutet, Benjamin

Mutanga Itoe and Bankole Thompson. Earlier, there had been an argument between the defence team and the prosecution on the submission of certain documents that were to be tendered in as part of the

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Prosecution ends CDF Trial

From Front Page

evidence of the prosecution team. The defence on their part raised an objection based on time limit, as the defence team should be supplied with the documents within ten days and if there is any objection it should be raised within five days by the defence team. The prosecution according to the defence has failed to satisfy the court of, as the documents should have

been submitted earlier according to rule 66A-1. The prosecution on their part explained to the court that the documents that they were about to be tendered are admissible. The documents are relevant as its aims to satisfy that each and every document about to be tendered is reliable, and thus they are of accessible to confirmation. At the end of the arguments the judges ruled that the document be admitted as justice Boutet read from all the three

bundles. Speaking at the end of the case Joseph Bangura a member of the prosecution team said the closure of the case had been subject to the order of the Court. He thanked the judges for their attention and the defence team for their patience. As the prosecution was closing their case, two of the defendants Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofana were absent but were represented by their lawyers

Salone Times

Friday July 15, 2005

63 RUF Prisoners Attempt Escape From Pademba

By Foday M. Jalloh

Sixty-three former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) remand prisoners at Pademba Road Prison yesterday made attempt to escape. The prisoners were protesting against the refusal of prison authorities to take them to court for hearings.

They sang and chanted slogans and attempted to force the prison gate open.

An officer attached to the Public Relations Office

of the Prisons Department confirmed the incident to SALONE TIMES.

The source who pleaded not to be named disclosed that lawyer Cecil Osho-Williams defending the prisoners in court had to be called upon from court to talk to his clients.

The source confirmed that no harm was done to any officer during the rioting. "We did not get any per-

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Prisoners Attempt Escape

mission to take them to court yesterday because the lock up cells at Law Court Building are not quite safe yet and are currently being repaired," the source said, adding that the prisoners became calm after Osho-Williams addressed them.

The source appealed to judiciary authorities to expedite the trials of the prisoners in the interest of justice and appealed to government to relocate the Pademba road Prisons to a safer location outside Freetown.

The RUF members were detained in the wake of May 8, 2000 demonstration that left scores of people dead and several others injured.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 July 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia**UN human rights commissioner calls for confidence building in Liberia**

MONROVIA, 13 Jul, 2005 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour on Wednesday ended a five-day visit to Liberia with a call for Liberians to "accept, to some extent, extraordinary measures for confidence building" in the country.

Arbour's call was made against the background of ongoing debates regarding the comprehensive transitional plan for Liberia, which some see as an infringement on the sovereignty of the country.

Source: United Nations News Service Date: 13 Jul 2005

UN human rights chief says dysfunctional judiciary impeding Liberia's rights progress

Replacing Liberia's "dysfunctional judicial system" is of the highest priority in creating a good environment for human rights, establishing the rule of law, fighting corruption and building a durable peace in the West African country emerging from years of civil war, the United Nations human rights chief said today.

Source: United Nations Secretary-General's Spokesman's Morning Headlines for Thursday, 14 July 2005

LIBERIA: UN human rights chief Louise Arbour has called for former Liberian President Charles Taylor to stand trial in a war crimes court in Sierra Leone on charges of fomenting that country's 10-year civil war. (Reuters)

International Clips on West Africa

14/07/2005 04:33:41

War-Divided Ivory Coast Prepares to Disarm

By TODD PITMAN

If a U.N.-backed disarmament program gets under way in coming weeks as hoped, nearly 50,000 combatants—mostly rebels— will begin surrendering arms at 17 U.N. peacekeeping sites for the first time since a failed 2002 coup split this West African nation in two.

Guinea clash between Guinean soldiers, Ivory Coast rebels kills one

CONAKRY, 14 July (AFP) - Guinean soldiers traded fire this week with alleged rebels from northern Ivory Coast on Guinean territory, killing one rebel fighter, a military source in Guinea said. Though the identities of the rebels have not been confirmed, the incident raises the spectre of the potential fallout from the ongoing Ivorian crisis bleeding across its borders into fragile neighbors such as Guinea or Liberia.

14/07/2005 13:32:24

Sierra Leone war court wraps prosecution of pro-government militia

FREETOWN, July 14 (AFP) - Prosecutors at the UN-backed war crimes court for Sierra Leone on Thursday rested their case against the pro-government Civil Defense Forces militia.

Liberia's Judiciary Is Weak Says UN Rights Commissioner

(The Analyst and Liberia Express)

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour questioned the credibility and professionalism of the Liberian judiciary to effectively dispense justice that would restore public and donors' confidence in the system.

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.

International News

Charles Taylor's Pressure

Liberia's interim government has called for the exile agreement of former president Charles Taylor to be reviewed, after accusing him of repeatedly breaking the terms of his asylum in Nigeria with daily phone calls back home and orders to supporters that could threaten peace in Liberia and beyond.

Taylor and his trademark white suit flew into exile in Nigeria under the terms of the August 2003 peace deal that ended Liberia's 14-year civil war. The warlord, accused of fomenting strife across the West African region, is now holed up in a luxury compound in the remote town of Calabar in the Niger Delta.

(The preponderance of evidence of Mr Taylor's interference in Liberian politics as well as his destabilisation efforts of the sub-region combines to provide compelling legal necessity for a review of that internationally-brokered exit agreement," said a statement from the Liberian Justice Ministry, issued late on Wednesday.

The ex-president's current activities (include) daily phone calls to cronies in Liberia and other parts of the world, through which he issues orders and instructions, much to the detriment of peace and security of Liberia and the sub-region," the statement said.

"The ex-president cannot continue to be beneficiary of this agreement in the face of increasing, compelling evidence of his notorious violation of that

self-same agreement," it added.

Taylor's asylum deal is currently protecting him from standing trial in a UN-backed court in Sierra Leone on 17 counts of crimes against humanity perpetrated in that country's civil conflict.

He is accused of supporting the brutal rebellion waged by the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone's decade-long war that officially ended in 2002, by supplying its leaders with guns and ammunition in return for smuggled diamonds.

Despite a chorus of calls from Western governments and international human rights groups to hand over Taylor to face justice, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has so far refused to expel the one-time Liberian leader until he has concrete proof that the terms of his asylum agreement have been violated.

Diplomats at the UN Security Council in New York have stopped short of a resolution officially calling for Taylor to be handed over, but have hinted that discussions were taking place in Africa on the subject.

Wednesday's appeal from Liberia's interim government to review the terms of Taylor's exile agreement may well be the first step. It will certainly up the pressure on Obasanjo, who has publicly promised to send Taylor back to Monrovia to stand trial, should a future elected government in Liberia ever decide to

press charges and demand his extradition.

Interim leader Gyude Bryant had previously said that Taylor's presence in Nigeria was part of the peace process, but warned that if Taylor started behaving in a way that derailed peace, it would change things.

Nigerian officials in Abuja were not immediately available to comment on Thursday on the statement from the Liberian government.

The Justice Ministry did not provide specifics about who Taylor had been calling from his Nigerian hideaway, nor details of the orders he was giving. Spokesmen for both the ministry and the government declined further comment when contacted by IRIN.

But as Liberia prepares for 11 October elections, the final chapter in the country's transition to democracy, allegations of meddling by Taylor have been numerous.

Reports from research groups Global Witness and the Coalition for International Justice have said Taylor is controlling or helping to finance at least nine of the 30 or so political parties that have thrown their hat into the ring for the October ballot.

Special Court prosecutors in Sierra Leone have accused Taylor of wiring US \$160,000 to his supporters in the Liberian capital Monrovia last October to help start riots that killed 16 people and injured hundreds of others, and have named him as being involved in a January 2005 assassination attempt on ailing Guinean President Lansana Conte.