

**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, 18 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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# Mail & Guardian online

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### UN wants Taylor in court for war crimes

Free Town

17 July 2005 08:38

UN Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour on Saturday stepped up pressure on Nigeria to extradite former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to stand trial at a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone.

Winding up a three-day visit to Sierra Leone crisscrossing the former war-torn country to evaluate the state of human rights, Arbour added her voice to the growing campaign to extradite Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

"I call and will continue to call publicly not only on (Nigerian) President Obasanjo but all African leaders to stand up and say very firmly that they believe in justice just as they believe in peace and that they support the immediate transfer of Taylor to Sierra Leone to stand trial."

In August 2003 Liberia emerged from two decades of deadly civil war when Taylor bowed to pressure from rebels besieging the capital Monrovia -- and from Ecowas and members of the international community -- and stepped down.

At the request of Ecowas and the African Union, Obasanjo agreed to allow Taylor to settle in Calabar, southern Nigeria.

The former head of state is wanted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone who is seeking to indict him for his presumed support for rebels of the Revolutionary United Front who sparked a civil war in this west African country in 1992.

Both the UN-backed tribunal and the United States want Taylor to be judged in this court.


Earlier this month Obasanjo complained that his country was being harassed and blackmailed for having taken in Taylor.

Stressing that there would be "no lasting peace in Sierra Leone until Taylor faces the Special Court," Arbour said, "the pressure on President Obasanjo to turn over Taylor to the Special Court is not targeting the Nigerian leader unfairly."

Commenting on the report by Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Arbour said it contained "fundamental and important recommendations" and called for the "speedy establishment of an independent, representative and credible National Commission for Human Rights."

The UN Human Rights Commission has implemented several human rights projects in the country, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

It was the second time in six years that a UN human rights commissioner visited the west African state. - Sapa-AFP

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## Regional leaders await evidence on Liberia's Taylor

Fri Jul 15. 2005 12:54 PM GMT

MONROVIA (Reuters) - West African leaders would need evidence that Liberia's former president had broken the terms of his exile agreement before deciding whether to hand him over to a Sierra Leone war crimes court, a top mediator said.

Pressure is mounting on Nigeria to send Charles Taylor to the U.N.-backed tribunal where he faces charges of crimes against humanity for stoking a brutal conflict in Sierra Leone through an illicit trade in guns for diamonds.

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

Nigeria has said it will not extradite Taylor unless he is found to have broken the terms of his exile agreement, despite accusations from Liberian politicians that he has done so by interfering in politics back home.

The top Liberia mediator from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Abdulsalami Abubakar said the organisation, which was one of the parties to the exile agreement, would not act on simple allegations.

"ECOWAS does not work on accusation and allegations. We work on facts. If anyone has evidence that Charles Taylor is violating the agreement, let him produce it and the international community will act on it," Abubakar told a news conference in the Liberian capital Monrovia late on Thursday.

"Eighteen months ago, everybody said, let Charles Taylor leave, let Charles Taylor leave. Now, he is gone and there is peace here, they want him to come back," he said.

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

United Nations human rights chief Louise Arbour called this week for Taylor to stand trial in Sierra Leone. The United States is also pressing Nigeria to hand Taylor over for trial.

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# Sierra Leone: UN rights chief should call for Taylors surrender

Human rights chief Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, should call for ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor's surrender to the U.N.-backed special court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity said last week.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, is currently on a 10-day visit to Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Liberia to assess efforts to build effective systems of human rights protection in countries emerging from armed conflicts. Arbour is a former chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The Campaign Against Impunity is a coalition made up of some 500 African and international human rights groups which was formed to urge Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Bringing war criminals to justice is one of the best strategies for ensuring human rights protection today and in the future, said Sulaiman Jabani, the executive secretary of the Sierra Leonean Coalition for Justice and Accountability, one of the groups which is part of the Campaign. As always, we are expecting leadership from the top of the human rights field, and this means pressing for Charles Taylor's surrender.

Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone. These crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by Sierra Leonean and opposition groups, which

Taylor actively supported, in 2003, when the Liberian capital Monrovia was under siege by rebels. Taylor was exiled to Nigeria in 2003, where he currently resides.

Mrs. Arbour recently said there is a link between the pursuit of justice and the restoration of peace and order. The Sierra Leoneans and Liberians who are part of this coalition could not agree more, said Ezekiel Pajibo, director of the Center for Democratic Empowerment in Liberia, another group which is part of the Campaign. Nigeria's refusal to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court stands squarely in opposition to stability and the rule of law.

The Campaign has stressed that Nigeria's failure to surrender Taylor to the Special Court undermines not only attempts to confront impunity in West Africa, but also efforts by the international community to consolidate stability in the region. There are consistent reports of Taylor's interference in Liberian politics, despite the terms of the agreement granting him asylum, which prohibits any such meddling.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in his June 7 report on Liberia that Charles Taylor is reportedly in regular contact with his former business, military and political associates in Liberia and is suspected of sponsoring a variety of presidential candidates with a view to ensuring that the next Liberian Government will include his sympathizers. Only days ago, Liberia's Transitional Minister of Justice demanded that Charles Taylor's exile deal be reviewed, stating that Charles Taylor's exile poses a threat to Liberia and the region due to the excessive meddling that continues to go on.

In the offices of the African Union summit last week, the Campaign Against Impunity -- which includes amongst others, the International Human Rights Week, and the Open Society Justice Initiative -- held press conferences in 17 African cities to call for Charles Taylor's surrender to ensure justice and stability. In conjunction with the press conferences, the Campaign issued a declaration urging the African Union to take action on this issue.

The Campaign asserted that by calling for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court, Arbour would be standing on behalf of justice for the victims of war crimes committed in Sierra Leone. On March 14, Arbour told the U.N. Commission on Human Rights that justice is a firm priority, wholly solidarity with the victims rather than a mere slogan.

While promoting human rights in West Africa, let a much louder voice call for Taylor to be brought to justice, said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights and International Justice Programs.

The Campaign Against Impunity urged Arbour to urge Nigeria to promptly surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for a fair trial. This trial must be in accordance with international law and standards guaranteeing the right to a fair trial, including the presumption of innocence. Without Taylor's surrender, justice for the victims of the crimes committed during the Sierra Leone conflict cannot be realized and building effective systems for human rights cannot be achieved.



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## Class II pupil discloses how a rebel impregnated her

Saturday July 16, 2005

By Tamba Borbor in Freetown

In her evidence before the Trial Chamber of the Special Court, Prosecution witness, TF1-014 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 Koinac District.

"When the attack occurred, all the civilians fled into the bush to seek refuge,' the witness said the rebels she explained captured her parents and took them in a house where they were taken and 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 capture, the witness noted that she was in class II and had not even reached puberty stage. "I was taken to Yemadugu where I was raped by Andrew. I would have been killed if I had refused. 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- 'Oga my brother'. "The civilians again left Yemadugu for Bamukoro as Superr ordered that all the women in the village should leave, as he maintained that they were not all 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 queuing up- pregnant women, suckling mothers and then followed by Saj's group." Continuing, TF1-014 further stated that she was with the troops until they retreated to Makeni where she had a stillbirth, she told the Court.

## Witness discloses...

# 5 rebels raped, and then stabbed her

By Barry Milton

**G**iving evidence in the criminal trial of five former AFRICOM soldiers at the Special Court, prosecution witness TFI-209 disclosed that five rebels raped and then stabbed her on the back. "I was sitting for a while in a bush that was a few kilometers from the village Koro, and they were trying to capture me," she said. "The witness found that a group of five

rebels raped her. "One was holding a gun and two others were with knives. After they had finished raping me, one of them pushed me to the ground, grabbed a knife and stabbed me on the back of my neck. The two others agreed that I should not be killed because they have raped." She said she was then asked to take them where the other civilians were hiding. When they got to the area, she said,

they met rebels there also. "One of the rebels called me and took me to the bush, took out his penis and forced it in my mouth so that I could suck it. I had wanted to refuse but I was afraid he might kill me. He wanted to rape me again but I refused so he took me to one of his colleagues who used a stick to beat my left foot. He also took me into the bush where he raped me; I thought it was five of them

who raped me," she said. TFI-209 narrated how she was later released and had to go and find her parents. The witness said she looked for

Port Loko to search for them, and found them in a village around the Batkanta area. He recalled that

after the rebels had left Koro, they returned and found out that most of the houses had been burnt down including her own.

Awoko  
18 July 2005



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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 July 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****UN steps up pressure to extradite former Liberian strongman Taylor**

FREETOWN, July 16 (AFP) - UN Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour stepped up pressure Saturday on Nigeria to extradite former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to stand trial at a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone.

Winding up a three-day visit to Sierra Leone crisscrossing the former war-torn country to evaluate the state of human rights, Arbour added her voice to the growing campaign to extradite Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

"I call and will continue to call publicly not only on (Nigerian) President Obasanjo but all African leaders to stand up and say very firmly that they believe in justice just as they believe in peace and that they support the immediate transfer of Taylor to Sierra Leone to stand trial."

**International Clips on West Africa****Ivory Coast clears another hurdle in peace process**

by Jean-Pierre Campagne

ABIDJAN, July 17 (AFP) - Ivory Coast has cleared another hurdle in its troubled peace process with the promulgation of new election laws, but many difficulties lie ahead before a presidential election due at the end of October.

Just hours before the expiry of the Friday deadline set by a South African-sponsored agreement, Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo promulgated new election laws.

Among the measures is the creation of an independent electoral commission to oversee the presidential election due to be held in the west African country on October 30.

*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](mailto:kontehk@un.org).*

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 July 2005**

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### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN chief names Briton as new Liberia representative**

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July (AFP) - UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has named Alan Doss of Britain to be the UN special representative in Liberia, a spokeswoman announced Friday. Doss, a 60-year-old career diplomat at the UN, will take over from Jacques Klein of the United States who announced he was standing down in April.

#### **Regional leaders await evidence on Liberia's Taylor**

MONROVIA, 15 July (Reuters) - West African leaders would need evidence that Liberia's former president had broken the terms of his exile agreement before deciding whether to hand him over to a Sierra Leone war crimes court, a top mediator said.

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# UNAMSIL to take over security at the Special Court

BY ABU BAKARR KARGBO

As the final withdrawal of the United Nations Missions in Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL draws nearer questions have been raised from many quarters

as to who will be responsible for security at the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Reports reaching this press state that the UN Security Council has agreed to let the

United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) take full responsibility for security at the Special Court after UNAMSIL would have finally ended their mission and mandate in De-

ember

Reports revealed further that the battalion that would take up this responsibility would be announced shortly and that

the UN Country Team in Sierra Leone would provide support to the battalion whose mandate would be determined by the Security Council

About 3500 Residual Forces will have to make an exit and repatriated to their various countries

It could be recalled that UNAMSIL successfully carried out their mandate of restoring confidence in the minds of Sierra Leoneans, building the peace and providing humanitarian assistance and support to the Sierra Leone Police and Army

Standard Times  
18 July 2005

# Students debate Special Court for Sierra Leone

BY EDWARD A. K. III

The National Union of Sierra Leone Students in their contribution towards National Security, peace and development on

Wednesday last week held a symposium at the British Council auditorium on the theme "Justice in Sierra Leone: the United Nations Special Court as a case

study"

One of the issues highlighted by the students was the fact that the agreement between the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government stipulated that the Chief Prosecutor should be a Sierra Leonean, but that on two occasions the Chief Prosecutors have been foreigners contrary to the agreement.

They students also read a

letter signed by incarcerated Chief Sam Hinga Norman claiming that the Special Court is full of corruption injustice and impunity and threatened to go on hunger strike if not given prompt attention. The students pledged their total commitment in solving national problems.

Among other issues undertaken by the students in an anti-corruption work-

shop that attracted more than one thousand students in the tertiary institution, was the issue of corruption.

The students raised concern that the issue of corruption in Sierra Leone was still not addressed and that more attention should be given by the relevant authority specially the government to make more input into the fight against corruption in the country.

Standard Times  
18 July 2005

# Hinga Norman to contest SLPP Leadership and Presidency



The Sierra Leone political scene will be set ablaze with disbeliever with a mere six weeks to go to a surprising conference for the SLPP leadership and the Sierra Leone Presidency will be a rehearsal. A usually reliable SLPP insider recently put the word in notice of the upcoming storm for the War Crimes Indictment Hinga Norman will soon be one of the first to test for international peace. In the next 48 hours, the SLPP and the Registrar of the Special Court will receive notification of Hinga Norman candidacy according to the former. Claims made by the OIC (Hinga Norman) to be Special Court candidate will be seen as a green light for the Special Court to be manifested. Hinga Norman is a well known and respected figure in the country and his candidacy will be a major event in the political scene. Hinga Norman is a well known and respected figure in the country and his candidacy will be a major event in the political scene.

Chief San Hinga Norman in prison in the past.

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## **HINGA NORMAN IS NOT ABOVE THE LAW**

By Joseph Seidu Sherman, Washington DC

I think that in Sierra Leone, people have the tendency of taking the law for granted especially if it applies to our kith or keen. As we are all enshrined with certain inalienable rights to dignity, which are the foundations of freedom and justice, those same rights should be extended to every Sierra Leonean irrespective of your tribal affiliation or strong political support.

News about Hinga Norman, War Crimes indictee contesting the leadership of the SLPP and the presidency in Sierra Leone while in incarceration, signals that his supporters are taking the law for granted and encouraging the culture of impunity.

Perhaps no word defines the experiences encountered by innocent civilians in Sierra Leone like the word impunity. The lack of punishment, of investigation, of justice. The crimes committed during the civil war-from common robberies to rape, torture, murders-without having to face any punishment is an implicit approval of the morality of these crimes. Our nonchalant attitudes or paying blind eyes to these atrocities is sanctioning that perpetrators of these heinous crimes are free to repeat them any time without fear.

Since the brutal civil war, relatives of the victims are waiting patiently for justice and truth. Elements of truth and justice are essential for lasting reconciliation and for allowing Sierra Leone to move forward. At the moment, all rational Sierra Leoneans should allow the rule of law to apply to all the accused irrespective of the popularity of any of the accused.

Can there be lasting peace with impunity alive and well? The answer is an absolute no! Impunity is a main factor which allows torture and crimes against humanity to continue. It promotes further disintegration of the rule of law. It undermines systems built over years to protect against atrocities.

Finally, supporters of Hinga Norman's leadership for the SLPP and candidacy for the presidency should allow the rule of law to prevail if Sierra Leone is to experience total peace and reconciliation. There are many qualified and aspiring candidates out there untainted with the blood of Sierra Leoneans and foreigners killed in the brutal civil war. Giving dim hopes to Hinga Norman that he is above the law is encouraging him to be unrepentant for the crimes he is alleged to have committed against the people of Sierra Leone.

About The Author:

*Joseph S. Sherman was an erstwhile Broadcast Journalist with ELCM Community Radio, now Radio Veritas, Monrovia, Liberia, and General Editor of the defunct FOOTPRINT Newspaper, Freetown, Sierra Leone. At Present he is a Director of a Multi-Cultural Adult Education Center in Washington, DC.*

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## **PROSECUTION RESTS CASE AGAINST CDF ACCUSED**

Friday July 15, 2005

The Special Court Prosecution has rested its case against the three leaders of the now-disbanded Civil Defence Force ( CDF ) Chief Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondowah. The three faced 8 -counts charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This sets the stage for the much-awaited Defence case during which witnesses for the accused will provide evidence aimed at rebutting the Prosecution's charges. It hopes to be a cliff-hanger as it had long been talked about that Chief Hinga Norman may implicate many high-placed citizens within the SLPP heirarchy.

During the trial, prosecution witnesses gave testimonies linking all three men to the atrocities committed by the CDF during the Sierra Leone war.

**READ TAMBA BORBOR'S REPORT LATER TODAY**

# Gov't not committed to implement TRC recommendations

By Toni H. [unclear]

The National Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, John Caulker, said in a government White Paper responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report is "not reflecting any clear commitment to implement these recommendations"

Addressing a letter to Ms. Linnéa Sjöberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Caulker stated among other things that even though the TRC faced acute funding problems "it could be described largely as a success".

Writing on behalf of the TRC Funding Group, Mr. Caulker further described the 2004 government White Paper which was issued on June 27, this year as "not meeting the expectations of the people of Sierra Leone," adding that, "the TRC does not compass the government of Sierra Leone to fully implement the recommendations of the TRC".

According to the letter, the government also did not commit itself to the reparation programme as recommended in the recommendations on the abolition of retributive



*President Kabbah: action needed*  
and the separation of the office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice among other recommendations.

The TRC Working Group called on Mr. Arthur to use his status in the country to prevail on President Kabbah in order for him to "be more proactive and demonstrate political will to fully implement the TRC recommendations in accordance with the TRC Act."

The Pool  
18 July 2005