

**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:**

Monday, 25 July 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Mariama Yilla  
Ext 7217

## Special Court Official **Alison Cooper Resigns**

**By Joseph Turay**

Chief of the press and public affairs of the Special court for Sierra Leone. Alison Cooper has resigned her position from the court

Speaking to The Exclusive at her Jomo Kenyatta Road New England office, Cooper said she was retiring because her contract has expired and

*Contd. page 2*

## **Alison Cooper Resigns**

*From front page*

that she has accomplished her assignment.

Cataloguing her achievements, Cooper said she was able to ensure that the office was provided with audio and video summaries of court proceedings shown on SLBSTV station and even across the

country through the outreach section of the court. She also said that the office has also been providing written summaries of the court's activities which are always sent overseas, press release and even facilitating access for journalists to cover the court's proceedings.

Exclusive  
25 July 2005

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 July 2005**

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

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **Nigeria to Release Taylor to Elected Liberian Government**

*(The Star)*

- Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo is reportedly softening his position not to release exiled former President Charles Taylor to answer to war crimes charges against him in the Special Court of Sierra Leone. The change comes amid growing pressure from the international community and new evidence from the war crimes tribunal that Taylor has violated the terms of his asylum.

*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).*

# THE NEW STORM

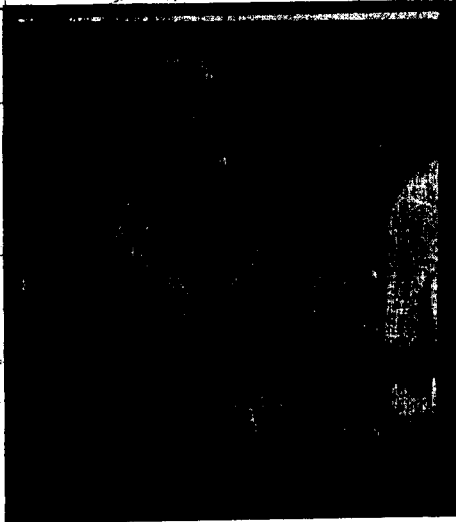
Vol 11 No. 43

Monday 25th July 2005

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## Chief Hinga Norman For President July



*Chief Sam Hinga Norman: For president?*

The Special Court Indicttee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, has in a letter addressed to the National Chairman of the Sierra

Leone People Party, SLPP, and the National Secretary General of the party, indicated his intention to vie for the leadership of the

SLPP to become the presidential nominee and leader of the party in the National Delegates Conference scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>

**Chief Hinga Norman For President July 31**

*From front page*      tariat, 29 Rawdon Street      We produce below the letter unedited.  
Party National Secre-      in Freetown.

C/O The Registrar,  
Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Jomo Kenyatta Road  
Freetown  
15-7-05

To:

1. National Chairman
  2. National Secretary General
- Both of Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)  
SLPP Headquarters  
29 Rawdon Street  
Freetown

Thru' The Registrar  
Special Court

Dear Sirs,

**Declaration Of Intent To Contest as Presidential Nominee And Leader Of  
The SLPP towards The national Presidential Elections Of 2007**

1. I hereby respectfully inform you and through you the current National Leader, national Executive Council (NEC), other organs, and the general membership of our great beloved party, the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), of my intention to offer myself to the free democratic choice of the party to be considered for election as Presidential Nominee and leader of the SLPP at the National Party Conference, whenever the next opportunity for such election in the party properly falls due within the relevant provisions of the Party Constitution 1995.
2. Please permit me to say, with the greatest diffidence and respect, that for now I wish to reserve my reasons for intending to so offer myself for the said contest, which reasons will however be amply stated and elaborated at the proper times and places before the appropriate bodies and sessions or meetings whenever fitting modalities are put in place for the purpose.
3. Meanwhile, I hereby also apply and request that you kindly grant me the use of the top floor hall at the Party Headquarters in Freetown as venue for making my Declaration of Intent and Launching of Campaign on Sunday, the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005 at 2 p.m.
4. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and hopefully at least a whole week before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005, especially considering current developments within the party and my own special circumstances at the present time.
5. And thank you for continuing to take care of the party.

Yours faithfully

.....  
Chief Sam Hinga Norman

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_extra\\_](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_extra_)

### **HINGA NORMAN DECLARES HIS INTENT FOR PRESIDENCY SUNDAY JULY 31**

Friday July 22, 2005

The SLPP headquarters will witness a seething flurry of political activities on Sunday July 31 as War Crimes Indictee Chief Hinga Norman declares his intent for the party leadership and the Sierra Leone Presidency. This brings to pass our sensational scoop last week that the Chief was going to throw his heart in the ring, though presently in captivity.

Announcing the Chief's political goal today was the Spokesman of the disbanded Civil Defence Force (CDF) Rev. Alfred SamForay, who said that all affected parties have consented and approved and a formal campaign committee is in the making in Sierra Leone, U.K and the U.S. And shortly after SamForay's announcement, a public statement from Chief Norman was released

#### **READ THE STATEMENT BELOW :**

NOTE: I am directed by the Secretary of Communications for the Committee to Elect Chief Hinga Norman,  
Mr. AbouBakarr Amara, to post on his behalf the following communication from Hon. Sam Hinga Norman. (A. SamForay)

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SPECIAL COURT CENTER  
NEW ENGLAND, FREETOWN  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

The Secretary-General  
Tegloma Federation

July 18, 2005

Dear Sirs,

SLPP LEADERSHIP ELECTION

I wish to inform you and through you the entire membership of the SLPP US-Branch and the Tegloma Federation about my decision to contest the position of national leader of our party.

I have arrived at this decision after careful consideration and in response to the overwhelming calls from all sections of the Party throughout the country.

The SLPP US-Branch has a special place in my heart. Quite apart from the fact that you are regarded as the major overseas Branch of the Party, you have shown your commitment and understanding by your decision to declare an open support for me following my arrest and indictment for the alleged war crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

Our Party stands on the cross road. On the one hand, there is the real danger that our Party has lost its way because it has been hijacked by people who have no faith in its direction and no long term prospects as the governing Party of this country. On the other hand, the coming national Convention offers the best opportunity for us to collectively avert the disaster that awaits our Party.

I am a loyal member of our Party and have always remained faithful to its cause ? even at grave personal risk. I believe I have the qualities to ably lead the Party. I also have the national stature and vision to provide the sort of leadership that has eluded our Party in the recent past. As a fellow member of the Party, it will be a singular honour for me to be allowed to lead our Party.

I hope I can count on your support.

ONE COUNTRY, ONE PEOPLE

Highest Regards,  
Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, JP.

## **International Pressure Builds to Put Former Liberian President On Trial**

Jul 22, 2005 Abidjan

Nigeria is resisting mounting international pressure to extradite former Liberian President Charles Taylor for trial at an international tribunal on war crimes charges. Mr. Taylor went into exile in Nigeria in 2003 as part of a peace deal to end the civil war in Liberia. Nigeria says it will not extradite Mr. Taylor without proof of allegations he has violated the terms of his exile.

For two years, a U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has wanted Charles Taylor to stand trial on war crimes charges related to allegations he stirred up a rebellion in Sierra Leone. The charges include murder, sexual slavery, and the use of child soldiers.

With rebels poised to attack Monrovia, Mr. Taylor agreed to step down in 2003, and go into exile in Nigeria as part of the terms of a peace deal to end 14 years of civil war.

A spokeswoman for Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, Remi Oyo, says the offer of asylum was imperative to save the people of Liberia from further bloodshed, and to end decades of conflict.

"At that time, the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria said that Nigeria would not be harassed or intimidated over this humanitarian gesture, which had support of not only the United States, but also the countries in Western Europe," she said.

Western governments, including the United States, have repeatedly called for Mr. Taylor to be surrendered to the special court. Ms. Oyo says that Nigeria will consider giving up Mr. Taylor only after Liberian elections are held in October.

The civil war in Liberia split the country among various rebel movements. Mr. Taylor, as the leader of the largest-rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, has been accused of expanding the conflict into neighboring Sierra Leone by backing the Revolutionary United Front rebels, and profiting from Sierra Leone's diamond trade. The Revolutionary United Front rebels launched an invasion against the Sierra Leonean government from Liberia in 1991, and were responsible for many atrocities, including hacking off victims' hands.

The prosecutor for Sierra Leone's Special Court, Desmond de Silva, says Nigeria should extradite Mr. Taylor because he has broken the terms of his exile.

"President Obasanjo took Taylor out of the equation in Liberia, and helped the peace process to start in Liberia, and we are all very grateful to President Obasanjo for having done that," he said. "But the fact is, it was quite clear, and Nigerian authorities have



admitted it, that Taylor was taken into Nigeria on condition that he did not meddle in the affairs of Liberia and the affairs of West Africa."

In a recent report to the U.N. Security Council, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Mr. Taylor is suspected of trying to influence the outcome of Liberia's presidential election, due in October, which would be a clear violation of the exile agreement.

Although Mr. De Silva would not go into detail about the evidence against Mr. Taylor, he says it is important for regional stability that Mr. Taylor be put on trial before Liberia's elections. He also says it is vital to establish a principle that everyone, including heads of state, is subject to international law.

"One of the sadness of the world is that the big fish seem to escape the net," he said. "The object of these international criminal tribunals is to bring to account the biggest of the big fish. Now, these international courts are set up to bring the culture of impunity to an end, and [if] the big fish are seen to be escaping one way or another, then the culture of impunity will not be brought to an end."

Mr. de Silva's predecessor in the Special Court, David Crane, said Mr. Taylor was profiting from businesses in Liberia and a wide international criminal network. He also accused Mr. Taylor of backing candidates in Liberia's October elections.

On a recent visit to Liberia, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, called for Charles Taylor to stand trial, saying there cannot be a lasting peace without justice.

A West Africa researcher for the international advocacy group Human Rights Watch, Corinne Dufka, says African states are unlikely to support calls for Mr. Taylor's trial, and will remain silent on the issue.

"Nigeria is concerned about setting a precedent of a head of state being held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity," she said. "As we know, there have been many crimes committed by African and other governments, by heads of state."

Human Rights Watch has joined a coalition of 300 African and international civil society groups asking the 53-member African Union to honor its human rights commitments, and bring Mr. Taylor to justice.

This article uses material from VOA.

# AngolaPress

Luanda - Monday, July 25, 2005 - 8:56:13 AM

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Economic  
news on  
Angola

## News

### Nigeria re-affirms stance on Taylor's release

New York, US, 07/22 - Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister Oluyemi Adeniji has re-affirmed that Abuja would not release former Liberian president Charles Taylor to any other person but an elected government in Monrovia.

Nigeria granted political asylum to Taylor in 2003 in an arrangement by the international community to help end the country's bloody civil war.

But President Olusegun Obasanjo's government has since then come under pressure from mainly Western countries to release Taylor to stand trial at the special war crimes court for Sierra Leone.

The court had indicted Taylor for crimes committed in the Sierra Leonean war, although the charges were made public only after he had gone into exile in Nigeria's Calabar state.

The Nigerian government has refused to hand over Taylor to the court, saying that would amount to renegeing on the promises it made to Taylor under the encouragement of the international community.

Adeniji said, however, that if an elected Liberian government indicts Taylor and asks that he stand trial for any crime, Nigeria would oblige.

"If an elected government indicts him, of course, Nigeria will let him go; he is a Liberian citizen," the minister said, noting that Nigeria would then inform ECOWAS and the African Union of the request of the Liberian government. The two organisations were party to the arrangement that allowed Taylor to go on exile in Nigeria.

Reacting to the recent call by the transitional government in Liberia to Nigeria to end Taylor's exile because he has been interfering in Liberia's affairs, Adeniji said Nigeria cannot take any action until they produce evidence of Taylor's wrong doing. Before the allegations by the Liberian government, he said, similar charges were made about Taylor but nobody has produced evidence to back them up.

"As far as we are concerned, Taylor is behaving according to the terms of his asylum," the Nigerian minister said.

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## 24hour service

21:05 - Governm  
Up Commission  
Legislate On Ca  
Insurance

20:09 - Soccer: S  
Esperança Lead  
Alone

20:06 - MPs In B  
Check Situation  
Detainees

20:04 - MPs Get  
Acquainted With  
Traditional Auth  
Namibia

20:02 - Soccer C  
Results And Sta  
After 18th Round

19:57 - Weather

13:11 - Exchang

12:38 - Agricultu  
Scientists, Biolo  
Discuss Biodive

12:35 - Aldeia No  
Project Presente  
September

12:32 - Cazenga  
Mark African Da  
March

12:27 - Huambo:  
Plant To Open In  
Tchicala-Tcholo

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_page](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_page)

### **JEWEL HOWARD SEEKS DIVORCE FROM CHARLES TAYLOR**

...Another blow to ex-rebel Kingpin

Saturday July 23, 2005

The world of former Liberian rebel kingpin and President Charles Taylor is caving in, despite everything Nigeria's President Segun Obasanjo is doing to shelter him from justice. Now, the pillar behind him in the good, old days--His wife, Mrs. Jewel Howard Taylor-- is divorcing him in a stunning setback for the indicted war criminal. .

According to reports in some Monrovia-based newspapers, Mrs .Taylor filed the divorce with one of Liberia's legal luminaries, Counsellor Francis Garlawulu Jr. According to further reports, when Charles Taylor received the legal papers, he froze in shock.

Since his first wife during his rebel days , Agnes Reeves Taylor, left him, her place had been taken by Jewel who is a fascinating female figure with lots of charisma and social standing. She was an accountant before she was swept off her feet by the playboy rebel leader then. Jewel immediately took over from where Agnes Reeves left, serving as a pillar of support for her husband especially after he became President. But Taylor had many women and this often led to angry quarrels at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia.

Indeed, the then President of Liberia shocked the world in 2003 when he said in a public radio broadcast that he was entitled to four wives and he was about to marry a new woman . Taylor lashed at those who had started criticising him , saying that they wanted to introduce Western culture in Liberia..

Taylor said that it would be an insult to Liberian womanhood if he turned down the new woman. He cited the example of the late President William Tolbert, who though a Preacher, had many wives, according to him. Taylor's comment made news all over the diplomatic world.

The problem between Taylor and Jewel was exacerbated in Calabar, Nigeria, where the Liberian leader moved with many of his concubines from Liberia and he also fell in love there with the daughter of the Governor of Calabar State. Jewel could have it no more and returned to Monrovia just weeks after departing with her husband for exile.

# The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 20, 2005 Wednesday Final Edition

## Human rights abusers are facing trials

Los Angeles Times

On July 11, 1995, armed United Nations peacekeepers stood by passively as Bosnian Serb troops overran the Bosnian town of Srebrenica. Although the UN Security Council had declared Srebrenica a "safe area," the Bosnian Serb forces massacred nearly 8,000 Muslim civilians in the days following the city's fall.

Few of the massacre's planners have been brought to justice. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has charged Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb president, and Ratko Mladic, his top general, with war crimes. But although their whereabouts have been an open secret for a decade, neither NATO nor the Bosnian Serb authorities has summoned up the political will to arrest them.

Justice isn't everything, of course. No one should imagine that punishing Mladic and Karadzic will compensate Bosnians for the suffering, or erase the international community's culpability for failing to prevent the Srebrenica massacre in the first place. The dead will stay dead.

Though it's only a distant second-best to preventing atrocities, punishing perpetrators is still important. It acknowledges the suffering of the victims and in the long run could help deter future abuses by forcing the bad guys to ask themselves if the abuses are worth it, given the increasing likelihood of ending up in jail somewhere down the line.

Even with Mladic and Karadzic still at large, events of the last decade offer reason to hope that the age of impunity is gradually coming to an end. In March 1999, the British House of Lords ruled that Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator from 1973 to 1990, had no immunity from prosecution for the torture of political dissidents. The landmark decision brought about a sea change in Chile's domestic politics, giving Chileans the courage to hold Pinochet -- long considered politically untouchable -- responsible for the misery he had caused. Today, he faces charges of murder and torture in Chile's courts.

Elsewhere, high-level perpetrators have similarly been forced to face the music. In June 1999, former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic was transferred to the tribunal's custody, and he is now on trial for his role in the former Yugoslavia's wars. In Rwanda, where the 1994 genocide engineered by the Hutu government killed 800,000 ethnic Tutsis, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has convicted several top political officials, including Jean Kambanda, Rwanda's former prime minister.

In Sierra Leone, an internationally backed special court is trying several former government ministers for their actions during the country's brutal civil war. In Argentina, where the government's "dirty war" killed an estimated 14,000 dissidents between 1976

and 1983, the Supreme Court recently declared unconstitutional amnesty laws that have long hindered prosecutions of those responsible. And in Iraq, Saddam Hussein is finally being held accountable by his countrymen for his years of rule by terror.

The quest for justice has met with inevitable setbacks as well as successes. At The Hague, Milosevic's trial has dragged on for four years with no end in sight. In Indonesia, political interference with trials has led to the acquittal of nearly all military officials responsible for massacres in East Timor. Another semi-international court, the Special Tribunal for Cambodia, may not have sufficient political independence to bring surviving Khmer Rouge officials to justice. In 1998, an international treaty established a permanent International Criminal Court at The Hague, but its viability remains in question because the Bush administration opposes it, citing fears of politically motivated prosecutions.

All the same, I doubt that Mladic and Karadzic sleep soundly these days. They must know that sooner or later, they're likely to end up in the dock. Already, neither man can travel abroad for fear of arrest.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Around the world, the message is going out to those who commit human rights abuses, whether insurgents, terrorists or government officials: You may get away with it for years -- but you won't get away with it forever.

It's a message our own political leaders would do well to heed. The human rights abuses committed by the United States in the war on terrorism don't begin to approach the severity of the abuses routinely committed in many other parts of the world.

Still, some U.S. policies have rightly drawn international condemnation.

Our indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay without due process, our alleged use of interrogation techniques such as "waterboarding" (strapping detainees to a board and lowering them into water so that they think they're being drowned) and our system of secret "renditions" (seizing suspected terrorists in one country and transporting them to another to be held, interrogated or imprisoned) violate both international and U.S. law.

Although for the time being the American public seems oddly passive in the face of these abuses, the experience of other nations suggests that this passivity won't last forever.

Ultimately, the Bush administration's actions in the war on terrorism will be judged by history. Someday, they may also be judged by the courts.

*Rosa Brooks is an associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law.*