

**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:**

Friday, July 08, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Mariama S. Yilla  
Ext 7217 / 7216

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 July 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****LIBERIA: Government calls for a review of Taylor's exile deal**

[ This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

MONROVIA, 7 Jul 2005 (IRIN) - 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.

**International Clips on West Africa**

07/07/2005 10:38:16

**Top UN Rights Official to Visit Three Post-Conflict Countries in West Africa**

Jul 06, 2005 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour is heading to three West African countries emerging from armed conflict - Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone - to survey the efforts being made to build effective systems for protecting human rights.

07/07/2005 13:56:47

**Ivory Coast foes meet for new round of disarmament talks**

YAMO USSOUKRO, July 7 (AFP) - Commanders of Ivory Coast's national and rebel militaries met Thursday for another round of disarmament talks, against the backdrop of threatened UN sanctions should the effort fail.

The closed-door meeting aimed to set a calendar for the operation to demobilize some 40,000 rebel fighters and 5,000 pro-government militants, in line with a timetable laid

out in peace accords signed in April under African Union mediation led by South African President Thabo Mbeki.

07/07/2005 13:58:22

## **Appeal opens in Sierra Leone child assault case of Aussie cop**

FREETOWN, July 7 (AFP) - Lawyers on Thursday opened arguments to have the conviction of Australian police officer Peter Halloran for indecent assault overturned by the Sierra Leone appeals court.

Halloran, a former investigator at the UN-backed war crimes court in the West African state, was sentenced in February to 18 months in jail on charges he assaulted a 14-year-old Freetown schoolgirl hired to work in his home.

*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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## Obasanjo Presents Position Paper At 5th AU Summit

**Nigeria First** (Abuja)

NEWS

July 5, 2005

Posted to the web July 5, 2005

Abuja

AU Chairman President Olusegun Obasanjo on 4 July in Sitre, Libya objected strongly to persistent pressures from certain quarters in the international community demanding Nigeria handover former Liberian President, Mr Charles Taylor to the UN International Criminal Court sitting in Sierra Leone.

President Obasanjo warned the agitators that to accede to their pressure and hand over Mr Taylor without new proven allegations of acts committed while in the country would undermine the credibility of Nigeria's foreign and security policy and deal a collateral damage to the image and influence of the AU and Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS).

Nigeria only agreed to grant Taylor asylum as a way to help bring peace back to Liberia. It received guarantees that it would not be pressured or harassed if it did so. Its action in taking in Taylor was endorsed by the AU, ECOWAS and the UN Secretary General, the Security Council and the permanent members individually.

President Obasanjo also warned, "If there is no abatement of pressures and harassment and if it is considered necessary, we will come back to formally place the matter before the AU and ECOWAS for decisions."

Speaking on representation at the UN Security Council, President Obasanjo called on fellow African leaders at the ongoing fifth summit of the AU to present a common position in their demands.

He expressed joy that the AU, through its executive council and committees as well as other stakeholders, had been shoring up support for an African common position as contained in the "Ezulwini consensus". This consensus opted for Africa getting two permanent and five rotating seats at an enlarged United Nations Security Council under the reforms proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

President Obasanjo encouraged the summit to take a collective decision on the need for the developed nations to adopt and own the report of the Tony Blair initiative encapsulated in the Report of the Commission for Africa and implement most of its recommendations.

According to him, this was the only way the report "would be more than a goodwill message to Africa with no substantive support to move the continent forward."

Noting that poverty remains endemic in Africa, President Obasanjo highlighted the fact that at national and continental levels, there is increased awareness of the linkage between grinding poverty, on one hand, and alienation from government and political stability on the other.

Africa's development partners are beginning to speak more of increased foreign aid, better terms of trade and other technical support to change the situation.

President Obasanjo also presented a report on the state of Affairs in Cote d' Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and the Darfur region of Sudan.

Speaking on Darfur, President Obaanjo appealed to the Sudanese parties (to the conflict) to relinquish the hard stance they have continued to maintain during the talks in the interest of the Sudanese people. He also called on them to the opportunity of the goodwill demonstrated by our development partners towards achieving peace, stressing that their patience and resources were not limitless."

On Guinea Bissau and Cote d' Ivoire, he announced that the situation was evolving as expected, following the conclusion of elections in Guinea Bissau and the renewed commitment of the parties to the Cote d'Ivoire crisis on June 29, 2005.

He thanked the organisers and participants in the Live Eight concert for their role in raising awareness about the situation in Africa and their continuing support for various anti-poverty programmes and initiatives.

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## Officer confident on Sierra Leone appeal

July 8, 2005 - 2:19PM

Australian police officer Peter Halloran was confident his appeal against an indecent assault conviction in Sierra Leone would be successful, the Victorian police union said.

Halloran, a former investigator at the UN-backed war crimes court in the West African state, was sentenced in February to 18 months jail on charges he assaulted a 14-year-old Freetown schoolgirl hired to work in his home.

The 56-year-old Victoria Police officer had earlier been acquitted on charges of unlawful carnal knowledge, procuring a girl under age 14 and conspiracy.

He has consistently maintained his innocence.

Lawyers on Thursday opened arguments in his appeal, claiming the trial justice made a legal error when he did not allow a statement from the victim denying Halloran's guilt into evidence.

Victoria Police Association secretary Senior Sergeant Paul Mullett on Friday said Halloran was in good spirits and was confident his appeal would be successful.

He said Thursday's hearing was relatively short and a determination would be handed down before July 15.

"We want that decision handed down within that specified timeframe because the enormous (previous) delay has been a great concern to us," he said.

Sen Sgt Mullett said the Association was concerned Victoria Police had not sent a senior representative to Sierra Leone to assist Halloran.

"The silence from Victoria Police has been deafening and the Victoria Police Force should have someone from a senior level over there," he said.

Halloran has been out on bail since March 10, pending appeal.

Australia had ordered an investigation into his conviction, which has been seen as political, following his exoneration by an inquiry committee at the war crimes court.

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