

**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, August 12, 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

# The Exclusive. Friday August 12, 2005.

By Jarrah Kawusu-Koite  
Signs that the SLPP may not  
host its slated party confer-  
ence on 19-20 August in the

provincial Northern town of  
Makeni continues to be trans-

formed to reality with the  
giant spanner recently thrown  
into the plans of the ruling  
SLPP by the CDF Special

Court War Crimes indictee,  
Chief Sam Hinga Norman.  
In our Wednesday 3rd Au-  
gust 2005, edition, we re-

ported in a front-page story  
that a Writ of summons had  
been filed at the Supreme  
Court of Sierra Leone, by

Chief Sam Hinga Norman  
through his counsel, Dr. Bu-  
Buakei Jabbie, for an injunc-  
*Contd. page 2*

## Hinga Norman Disrupts Convention

*From front page*

tion to be instituted prohibiting the proposed SLPP conference slated to be held on 19-20 August in Makeni.

According to the application on Hinga Norman's behalf, counsel for the plaintiff, Dr. Jabbie said that the first, second and third defendants are the National Chairman of the SLPP, Dr. Sama Banya, National Secretary General, Dr. Prince Harding and the SLPP respectively.

Chief Norman wants the SLPP delegates conference postponed for the simple fact that it is the delegates conference that is responsible for electing a presidential candidate rather than the party leader.

Unfortunately, it seems that the party leadership has already decided to open the race for the leadership while the presidency is yet to be declared vacant. The SLPP constitution does not make provision for separating the positions of national leader and presidential candidate and therefore can only be "Relinquished together or jointly."

A staunch SLPP stalwart informed this press that the current court case expected to be heard on Monday, is a cankerworm to the unity of the SLPP before the 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections.

The National Chairman of the SLPP, Dr. Sama Banya, has conceded that indeed a writ of summons was lodged by plaintiff; Chief Norman at the Supreme Court, although he was quick to note that the party "wants the rule of law to prevail." The SLPP National Administrative Secretary, Mr. Brima Koroma has said that there will be slight changes to the dates slated for the delegates conference until the outcome of the writ has been known.

In a letter dated 1st August instant, legal luminary Charles Francis Margai, warned the National Chairman to ensure a transparent, free and fair selection process of delegates as well as urging the party legal brains to meet to discuss issues contained in Chief Norman's application to the Supreme Court. Whether the National Chairman had created the forum for the legal minds within the party to meet and discuss the merits and demerits of Hinga Norman's case is still not certain. What has become a matter of concern to many of the party's stalwarts is the fact that time is no longer in their favour and therefore the earlier the issue is resolved, the better. Furthermore, 3(i) of Clause 1 of the SLPP constitution mandates that, "the party conference shall nominate a candidate for the presidential elections".

Also, Clause V 2(c) of the same constitution enacted in July 1995 states that: "There shall be a presidential nominee whose nomination shall be determined at the party's conference. He shall automatically become the leader of the party after such a nomination. He shall be the political head of the party and shall at future presidential elections be the party's presidential candidate with discretion to choose his running mate as his Vice President in consultation with the National Executive Council. He shall uphold the constitution of the party."

What is baffling most Sierra Leoneans at the moment is why this sudden rush for the position of National Leader within the SLPP, when the presidency is still occupied?

According to the Sierra Leone constitution of 1991, the office of the president becomes vacant four months before and three months after the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent. One political scientist has described the current litigation before the Supreme Court as a serious problem for the ruling government adding that, he will be surprised if the two main political parties (APC and SLPP) are not diagnosed for political diarrhoea considering the divisive politics and political shenanigan practised by them.

The Independent. Friday August 12, 2008.

# race

Reports say the ongoing legal tussle that has landed the Sierra Leone Peoples Party at the Supreme Court is one strategy Hinga Norman is using to knock Berewa out of the leadership race.

Norman is currently detained by the Special Court for war Crimes but has filed his application to contest. He has also filed an application at the Supreme Court for an injunction on the National Convention of the party scheduled for August 19-20 so as to address 'controversial issues'.

But observers say other aspirant who suspect that the convention might be stage-managed are backing Norman.

It is an indication that a crisis looms within the party.

Meanwhile, the party is

making preparations for the Convention.

Charles Margai dragged the party to court in 2002 but Prince Harding, the National Secretary General declared him a non-member because he claimed that Margai had no membership card.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 11 Aug 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Nigeria: Surrender Charles Taylor to Special Court for Sierra Leone*****On Two-Year Anniversary of Charles Taylor's Exile, Justice Should Be Done***

(London 11 August 2005) - Two years after former Liberian President Charles Taylor fled Liberia for exile in Nigeria, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo should no longer allow Taylor to escape prosecution for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, the Campaign Against Impunity said today. Nigeria should immediately surrender Taylor to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The campaign stressed that Taylor's trial must take place in accordance with international law and standards for fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

**International Clips on West Africa****UN complains of new obstacles to its movements in Ivory Coast**

ABIDJAN, 11 Aug (AFP) - The UN mission in Ivory Coast complained again Thursday that its peacekeeping forces were being hampered by supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo, despite an order from him to desist.

The British second-in-command of the UN operation known as ONUCI, Alan Doss, told a press conference that pro-Gbagbo "young patriots" had forced a UN convoy to turn back Wednesday in the southwest region of Gagnoa.

The team was in the region at the invitation of the authorities and to meet senior local officials, Doss said.

*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).*

## Nigeria: Surrender Taylor to War Crimes Court

11 Aug 2005 14:00:13 GMT

Source: Human Rights Watch

### Background

- ▶ [FACTBOX: Guinea](#)
- ▶ [FACTBOX: Guinea-Bissau](#)
- ▶ [FACTBOX: Liberia](#)
- ▶ [CRISIS PROFILE: W. Africa teeters between war and peace](#)
- ▶ [CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?](#)

**MORE** →

(New York, August 11, 2005)  
 - Two years after former Liberian President Charles Taylor fled Liberia for exile in Nigeria, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo should no longer allow Taylor to escape prosecution for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, the Campaign Against Impunity

said today. Nigeria should immediately surrender Taylor to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Campaign Against Impunity, a coalition made up of some 300 African and international civil society groups was formed to ensure Nigeria's surrender of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone by the Special Court. The 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 armed opposition groups.

Despite mounting international pressure from African countries, the United Nations, the European Union and the United States, Nigeria continues to resist surrendering indicted war criminal Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Most recently on July 28, the Mano River Union, which consists of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, issued a communiqué, which agreed to call for a review of Taylor's temporary stay in Nigeria.

"Nigeria is swimming against the tide of international justice," said Shina Loremikan, director of the Committee for Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), a Nigerian organization that is part of the Campaign Against Impunity. "The international community is in agreement that Taylor must be surrendered to the Special Court for trial. It is high time that President Obasanjo did the right thing by turning Taylor over to be tried for his alleged crimes."

The campaign stressed that Taylor's trial must take place in accordance with international law and standards for fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Surrendering Taylor to the Special Court is crucial not only to ensure justice is done for crimes committed during the Sierra Leone conflict, but also to ensure stability in West Africa, the Campaign Against Impunity said. 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 and, more recently, the Mano River Union have expressed concern over Taylor's potential for fomenting instability in the region. The July 28 communiqué issued by the Mano River Union cited allegations of Taylor's involvement in an attack on the Guinean president, gathering armed people in the forests of Liberia, and making telephone calls to Liberian officials. In his June 7 report on Liberia, the U.N. secretary-general stated that Taylor is reportedly in regular contact with former business, military and political associates in Liberia and is suspected of supporting candidates in Liberia's October presidential election.

"On the second anniversary of Charles Taylor's flight to Nigeria, his continued impunity is undermining the rule of law in West Africa and putting civilians in the region at risk," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice program at Human Rights Watch, which is part of the campaign.

"African leaders owe it to their people to work vigorously with President Obasanjo to see that Taylor faces trial expeditiously," Kolawole Olaniyan, Africa program director at Amnesty International, which is also part of the campaign.

The first public call for Nigeria to surrender Taylor to face trial came from the European Parliament in February of this year in the form of a resolution. Later in May, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed similar resolutions. During a visit to West Africa last month, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour called for Taylor to appear for trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and for African leaders to urge President Obasanjo to hand over Taylor.

The campaign called on members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to follow the example of the Mano River Union and speak out on the need for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court. SADC is holding its annual summit in Gaborone, Botswana in the coming days.

"The moment for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court is now," said James Paul Allen, a Sierra Leonean human rights activist involved in the campaign. "The indictment for Charles Taylor on war crimes and crimes against humanity must be honored. The victims in Sierra Leone who suffered grave crimes under international law should not be forced to wait any longer."

Partners in the Campaign Against Impunity in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa held events today, including interfaith services

in Lagos and Calabar (the city where Taylor now resides), to mark the second anniversary of Taylor's arrival in Nigeria with a call for his surrender.

**HRW news**

**Newsdesk** [NGO Latest](#) [Reuters Pictures](#)

---

- Farm, rural aid can cut Africa child hunger-report (10 hours ago)  
**Source: Reuters**
- Three Colombian soldiers killed in "friendly fire" (14 hours ago)  
**Source: Reuters**
- SOUTH AFRICA-ZIMBABWE: Church aid to leave for Harare soon (15 hours ago)  
**Source: IRIN**
- TANZANIA: EU donates 7 million euro for food to refugees (15 hours ago)  
**Source: IRIN**
- Abbas pledges safety for foreigners in Gaza (15 hours ago)  
**Source: Reuters**

**MORE** →

[Printable view](#) | [Email this article](#) | [Send comments](#)

© 1998-2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.



# Nigeriaworld

## FEATURE ARTICLE

NIGERIAWEB | ODILI.NET | MESSAGEBOARD | NAIJANET.COM | COMMENTARY | SEARCH

GO

Martins Anyaegbu

Thursday, August 11, 2005



www.nigeriaworld.com

SEARCH BY AUTHOR

ANNOUNCE THIS  
ARTICLE TO YOUR  
FRIENDS

advertisement



## GOOD INTENTIONS GONE BAD?

In an era of repeated false and flawed intelligence, there will naturally be the impulsive temptation to brush aside the recent United States National Intelligence Council report on Nigeria as inconsequential. But for a variety of reasons, the blistering NIC report which presaged an "outright collapse of Nigeria" within 15 years is more than a mere coincidence. For instance, last week's meeting between an 11- man U.S military brass led by Gen. Robert Sennewald and Nigerian Senators at Abuja adds to the anxiety, confusion and contradictions in the NIC report. The parley, which focused mainly on the damaging report, has also vindicated those who insist that the wrenching U.S think- tank's report, simply offers a glimpse of worse things to come in a complex web of a well-crafted design to weaken the knees of the regional power before the final assault.

John Campbell, the U.S ambassador to Nigeria has on several occasions denied that the NIC report and the recent unsubstantiated security alert "from Washington" that caused the closure of western embassies in Lagos, had nothing to do with Charles Taylor's extradition to Sierra Leone. And that those successive incidents were not intended to impede Nigeria's bid for a permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council. That maybe true. But their timing, the NIC report in particular, is what makes such denial a hard sell.

Ads by Goooooogle

### Wazobia Planet Online

African Movies, Nigeria Films, Shop Wazobia Planet Online, VCD, DVDs  
www.wazobiaplanet.com

### Oil & Gas Jobs in Africa

For People with Experience of Oil / Gas / Power / Energy Industry  
www.worldwideworker.com

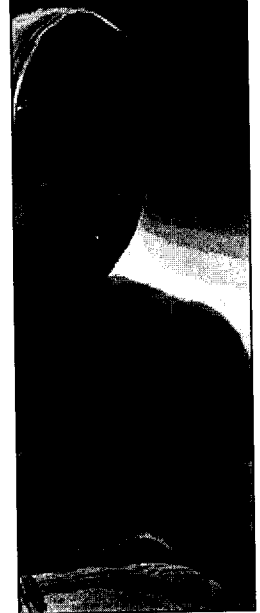
### Cheap Flights To Nigeria

Amazing Deals on Nigeria Flights. Compare Prices and Book Online.  
www.getmore4less.co.uk/nigeria

### Port Harcourt Hotels

Visiting Port Harcourt? Compare Hotel Prices & Reviews  
www.TripAdvisor.com

Here is why. Its release came at a time when Nigeria is lobbying for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. By depicting the West African nation as a fragile and would -soon implode nation state, the report has left a huge gunk on Nigeria's bid for that seat. The second and perhaps the most unsettling aspect of the report is that it came on the heels of a brewing diplomatic rift between Nigeria and the United States over extraditing Charles Ghankay Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face 17 -count of war crimes charges. And when there is an increasing U.S military build- up in the Gulf of Guinea, a development, which many critics contend, does not sit comfortably well with the national security interest of Nigeria.





Relations between Nigeria and the United States neared a boiling point shortly after President Olusegun Obasanjo at the end of his 45 minutes meeting with President Bush at the White House on June 5th, said there would be no handing over the disgraced former Liberian leader to face trial in Sierra Leone unless there is "absolute evidence" that Charles Taylor has violated his asylum agreement. And warned that " Nothing should be done to erode the credibility of Nigeria". Since then, Washington which is ostensibly incensed by Obasanjo's gall to demand for a fresh evidence that the former warlord has run foul of his asylum pact, has been stepping up pressure on Abuja to turn the war crimes suspect over to the Court, including an unproven link to the al Qaeda network.

David Crane, the immediate past chief prosecutor of the UN-backed Special Court had while briefing the Security Council on the progress of the Court late May, alleged that Taylor was implicated in the January 19 failed coup attempt against Guinea's president Lansana Conte and is meddling in Liberia's politics. "He is a meddler, a terrorist and war criminal", the former US defense lawyer further alleged. Alan White, the SCSL chief investigator also warned members of the Security Council that "Until Charles Taylor is brought to justice, he will be an immediate, clear and persistent danger to the entire region of West Africa", corroborating Crane's allegation. And just as recent as last April, the U.S Congress voted 421-1 in favour of a non-binding bill, demanding that Nigeria should hand over the America's new desperado to face the trial. Ed Royce, [R. California] a well- known opponent of the asylum deal and author of the bill, underscored the growing frustration in Washington when he said " There is no sense in spending billions of dollars to rebuild Liberia and Sierra Leone knowing that a warlord is out there scheming to knock down everything we're trying to achieve".

▼ advertisement



**amazon.com**  
and you're done.

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | <b>The Famished Road</b><br>Ben Okri<br>New \$10.20!<br>Used \$3.44!                 |  | <b>Joys of Motherhood</b><br>Buchi Emecheta<br>New \$10.36!<br>Used \$1.65! |
|  | <b>Death and the King's Horseman</b><br>Wole Soyinka<br>New \$11.40!<br>Used \$6.98! |  | <b>The Bride Price</b><br>Buchi Emecheta<br>New \$10.80!<br>Used \$2.95!    |

(Prices May Change) Privacy information

America's discomfort is not difficult to explain. Its main man in the Special Court, David Crane [American], last July reached the end of his three-year term contract. His successor, Desmond de Silva QC, a Brit who was admitted to Sierra Leone Bar in 1969, loves to call Charles Taylor " Africa's Hitler". But that does not mean he will be able to deliver the "indictee" to the Court as originally envisaged by America, Britain and France. The mandate of the Court will come to a halt at the end of the year. That change of guard and the expiration of the Court's mandate would have left Crane and Washington with virtually not much to show for the millions of dollars so far spent on the Court. With millions of dollars already sank on the Court and millions more still needed to achieve the twin goals of bringing all the " indictees" to trial and using the special court to abort the establishment of a permanent International War Crimes Tribunal, the SCSL has become both a disappointment and an embarrassment to its bankrollers, especially Washington that spends \$5 million dollars in annual contribution to keep it financially afloat.

Moreover, most of the key players in the country's bloody war have either become untouchable, died or still remains out of the reach of the SCSL For instance, Foday Sankoh and his military commander, Sam Bockarie, aka "Mosquito" have all died. Charles Taylor has since been granted a political asylum in Nigeria while Major Johnny Paul Koroma, the leader of the Armed Revolutionary Council [ARC] that toppled Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's administration in a military coup, has disappeared into the thin air. As if that was not enough headaches for the SCSL bankrollers, there were also allegations of bribery scandals involving the court's key witnesses. Worse still Peter Halloran, Alan White's predecessor and former Head of the Homicide Division in the Police Force of Victoria, [Australia], was early this year convicted and sentenced to 18 months in prison by Justice Samuel Ademusu of the High Court in Freetown for sexually assaulting his 13 year -old Sierra Leonian House girl.

Dr. J. Peter Pham, a former senior diplomat in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea [2001-2002], and one of the critics of the Court had in an article published in The National Interest wrote

The SCSL (in an estimated) \$22 million [ \$5 million of which came from Americans taxpayers] in the first year of operation alone, which leaves one to contemplate on the value being delivered for that kind of cost in a country where the GDP per capita is estimated approximately \$175 per annum".

But the actual cost of running the Court depends on who is giving out the figures. The New York Times in its editorial

piece [ June,9, 2005] said " Washington has spent \$800 million on the Special Court and on attempt to rebuild Liberia" The Court's Registrar, Robin Vincent, on the other hand told the IRIN [ Integrated Regional Information Network] in a recent interview that an additional \$30 million is needed to complete the trial. This is apart from the \$150 million, which according to his own account, has already been pumped into the Court through various contributions and funding. That the Court was facing cash squeeze and some accounting problem became more evident when Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola, the SCSL president at the May UN Security Council briefing warned that "Without more funds, and unless donating countries come forward, the special court is threatened with financial collapse". And contrary to the Court's registrar's own figures said the "Special court had received only US\$54.9 million in voluntary contributions against a four-year budget of US\$104 million, and there was currently no assurance of funds beyond the end of 2005". There is therefore growing concern that aside from those scandals, that the SCSL is becoming a sinkhole of waste.

You will recall that on June 4, 2003, less than two months before Mr. Taylor went on the internationally negotiated exile in Nigeria [August 11, 2003], the chief prosecutor of the UN Special Court had in an unsealed document charged the former warlord with trying " to obtain access to the mineral wealth of the Republic of Sierra Leone, in particular the diamond wealth of Sierra Leone and to destabilize the State". And " provided financial and support, military training, personnel, arms, ammunition and other support and encouragement to the Revolutionary United Front [RUF] led by Foday Saybana Sankoh, in preparation for RUF armed action in the Republic of Sierra Leone, and during the subsequent armed conflict in Sierra Leone". Original copies of the indictment and Warrant of Arrest which were previously sent to Ghana but were rejected, were later delivered to the Nigerian authorities on November 27,2003, while a "Red Notice" was subsequently issued by the International Police Organization [Interpol] against Taylor on 3,2003.

Determined to force the one-time Gas Station attendant at Plymouth [Boston, USA] to answer the war crimes charges, the U.S Congress had earlier in October of 2003, authorized a \$2m bounty " for the capture of the an indictee of the Special Court in Sierra Leone". President Bush signed the contentious reward skillfully hidden in the \$87.5 billion Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act, into law on November 7 of the same year. An Anglo-American mercenary company, Northbridge Services actually jumped at the offer, necessitating a heightened security in the eastern city of Calabar where Charles Taylor is currently staying. Dubbing the reward a "state sponsored terrorism", Femi Fani-Kayode, the presidential spokesman argued, " Such a venture violates not only international law but all the norms of civilised human behaviour"

That Charles Taylor did commit heinous crimes during the two neighboring countries' wars is both incontestable and inexcusable. But the inescapable fact remains that there are others who had played no less ignoble roles in the bloodbaths as well. Therefore, as Abuja and Washington continue to be embroiled in the Taylor obsession, there remains hard unanswered questions regarding those who other than him benefited from the wars through illegal trafficking in arms, diamonds and timber, and who funded the conflicts for the same reason. It is an open secret that the two wars, and to some extent, even those of Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, were intertwined. If arresting Charles Taylor and hauling him to the SCSL is the problem, his eventual trial and possible conviction, will almost certainly not be the lone panacea for instability in West Africa.

This is because others like Guu Van Kouwenhoven, Dutch illegal arms, diamonds trafficker and chairman of Oriental Trading Company [OTC], Liberia, have neither been indicted nor tried for the pogrom in Sierra Leone and its neighboring countries. So do other highly valued key players in the region's instability such as Leonid Minin, a Ukrainian and owner of the Exotic Tropical Timber Enterprise in Liberia. Like Kouwenhoven, the leader of the Ukrainian Mafia, was actively involved in illegal arms and diamonds trafficking in West Africa. Minin had \$500.00 worth of diamonds when he was arrested for the lesser crime of drugs possession in Italy in 2000.

If the real motive is to mop up those who are destabilizing Africa and ensure justice for the victims of such instability, why is Sir Mark Thatcher not behind bars? Because the dubious British "businessman" who in January 2004 invested \$275.000 in a failed coup attempt against Equatorial Guinea's president Teodor Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, is the son of the former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and was able to walk away from a 15 year jail term by posting 165.000 pounds bond. Like other previous successful and unsuccessful coups in Africa, the aim was to replace the Obiang administration with a new one to be headed by Severo Moto, an opposition leader in exile who assured the coup sponsors unfettered access to the newly discovered vast oil wells in the tiny West African country. And if the SCSL is serious about bringing all those involved in the bloodbaths in Sierra Leone to book and is to serve as a deterrence to would-be future Africa's destabilizers, why is Simon Mann, also a Brit and "business partner" of Sir Mark Thatcher, and chairman of the Executive Outcomes, which fought side by side with the RUF not indicted? Though Simon Mann is in

for a seven year term for procuring illegal arms in Zimbabwe for the aborted coup in Equatorial Guinea, other members of the Executive Outcomes, a mercenary company based in South Africa, are still active in Sierra Leone and its neighboring countries. What about Crause Styler, who has been Mann's pilot in numerous mercenary activities in Africa since 1990s and part owner of the so-called Air Africa Ambulance? What about JH Archer who also bankrolled the aborted coup in Equatorial Guinea with \$130,000?

Most intriguing is the case of Victor Bout, a notorious Russian illicit arms and diamonds trafficker, who according to intelligence experts, has left footprints and trails of blood in all troubled spots in Africa and beyond. In a detailed exclusive interview with the untouchable published in The New York Times Magazine, Peter Landesman wrote "In Africa, Bout sold and delivered to anyone who could pay". Alex Vine, an arms investigator for the Human Rights Watch also observed that "By 2000, Victor Bout had become the McDonald's arms trafficking- he was the brand name". But why did the FBI, M15 and Washington which had him under their radars from the early 1990s allowed Bout to continue to awash Africa with illegal weapons, including helicopter gunship? Landesman explained it is "Because Bout's reputed crimes were committed outside the United States". And even when there was initial effort to bring Bout to book during the Clinton administration, "the Bush administration didn't see transnational crime as a national security issue, and didn't share their fixation on Victor Bout". According to Landesman, the Bush administration after adopting the "Look but don't touch" approach, switched their radar off Bout altogether after the September 11th terrorist attacks because the then National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice said they had "bigger fish to fry".

This "Look but don't touch" attitude of the west toward the continent may help to explain why African nations, according to United Nations estimate, have suffered 186 military coups and 26 wars within the past 50 years and why an estimated seven million Africans have died as a result. No thanks to the likes of Victor Bout, Simon Mann, other foreign mercenaries and illegal arms traffickers who are aided and shielded by their governments. It equally explains why Nigeria has for decades made peace and stability in Africa the centerpiece of its foreign policy. Expectedly, such preeminent foreign policy initiative has yielded mixed dividends for Nigeria, and in most cases, is at crossroads with the interests of those who determine where and when wars would be fought, and when if at all such wars should be halted.

In a rare appreciation of Nigeria's leadership role in conflict resolution, the Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo and his long time political rival, Alassane Quattara in a recent written separate statements commended president Obasanjo for the resolution of the Ivoirian crisis. Gbagbo wrote, "Thanks to your personal involvement in the resolution of the Ivoirian crisis, the people of Cote d'Ivoire unanimously rejoice at the conclusion of the Pretoria agreement. By capitalizing on the gains of the preceding agreements, the Pretoria agreement is a testimony to the efficacy of your skills in resolving international crisis. I congratulate you also for proving constantly that peace and international security are better guaranteed through mutual preventive efforts within the framework of multilateral confidence". Similarly, Alassane Quattara wrote, "I pay homage to you for your determination, foresight and courage in the settlement of the Ivoirian crisis. Because of the place of Nigeria in Africa and the respect you enjoy in the international scene, I am convinced that you will continue to stand by Cote d'Ivoire in its peace efforts by supporting actions intended to guarantee transparency and fairness in the next general elections".

However, while Nigeria is committing huge human and financial resources to either halt or prevent emerging wars in Africa, others like Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea are mapping out strategies that are most likely to sabotage those peace efforts. In a communiqué issued at the end of their recent meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leonean capital, president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah [Sierra Leone], Gyude Bryant [the interim president of Liberia] and Guinea's prime minister Cellou Diallo joined forces with human rights groups and western governments calling on Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor to the special court in Sierra Leone. The three leaders from the so-called Mano River Union stated "We will ask Nigeria to lift the immunity that is keeping Charles Taylor under the government protection" What they did not say or pretended not to know is that between August 24, 1990 when the 2,000 Nigeria led ECOMOG forces landed in Liberia and 1997 when there began to be relative peace in Liberia, ECOMOG operations cost Nigeria more than \$1 billion and 500 Nigerian troops. It is a repeat of this scenario that the Obasanjo administration is trying to prevent but which others like the ungrateful Kabbah, are trying to recreate in Liberia and elsewhere.

Where was the world's outrage when the UK between 1967-1970 [Biafran War] backed the Federal Government of Nigeria to kill millions of people of Igbo extraction? A leaked UK secrete document revealed that it supplied 36 million rounds of ammunition, 60,000 mortar bombs, 42,000 Howitzer rounds, thousands of rifles, as well as helicopters and armored car to the Federal troops. According to George Thomas, the then UK Commonwealth minister, "the sole immediate British interest in Nigeria is that the Nigerian Economy should be brought back to a condition in which our

trade and investment in the country can be further developed , and particularly so we can gain access to the important oil installations". In fact, Michael Stewart, the former Foreign Secretary confirmed the armored cars " have undoubtedly been the most effective in the ground war". For a mere \$350 million oil investment in Nigeria then by the Shell/BP partially owned by the British government, UK authorities became an accomplice in the genocide against the Igbos during which 3 million of them were believed to have been killed.

And where is the human right groups outrage for Sudan [Dafur] where there is a replay of what happened then in Nigeria? Instead of wasting energy on a caged beast [Taylor] and pushing the panic button in Nigeria, why can't the international community support Nigeria led African Union Mission in Sudan [AMIS], where Nigeria is sending additional 1,000 troops as part of efforts to restore peace in the war-torn country? The "almighty five", the super powers are looking the other way because China is draining the Sudanese oil while Russia is making millions of dollars by selling arms to Khartoum. Where was the world's anger when King Leopold of Belgium " the rapist Congo" murdered 3 million Congolese in the 19th century because gold and diamond?



# Nigeria: War Crimes Court Should Get Access to Taylor

Thursday, August 11 2005 @ 07:35 PM EDT

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

Human Rights Watch 2005

News and Releases

Compiled by Kandy Ringer

hrw.org

## Nigeria: War Crimes Court Should Get Access to Taylor Nigeria: Surrender Taylor to War Crimes Court

HRW via BBSNews - New York, August 11, 2005) - Two years after former Liberian President Charles Taylor fled Liberia for exile in Nigeria, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo should no longer allow Taylor to escape prosecution for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, the Campaign Against Impunity said today. Nigeria should immediately surrender Taylor to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Campaign Against Impunity, a coalition made up of some 300 African and international civil society groups was formed to ensure Nigeria's surrender of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone by the Special Court. The 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 armed opposition groups.

Despite mounting international pressure from African countries, the United Nations, the European Union and the United States, Nigeria continues to resist surrendering indicted war criminal Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Most recently on July 28, the Mano River Union, which consists of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, issued a communiqué, which agreed to call for a review of Taylor's temporary stay in Nigeria.

"Nigeria is swimming against the tide of international justice," said Shina Loremikan, director of the Committee for Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), a Nigerian organization that is part of the Campaign Against Impunity. "The international community is in agreement that Taylor must be surrendered to the Special Court for trial. It is high time that President Obasanjo did the right thing by turning Taylor over to be tried for his alleged crimes."

The campaign stressed that Taylor's trial must take place in accordance with international law and standards for



August 11, 2002: Charles has promised to step down and hand over the presidency of Liberia to his Vice President Moses Blah at 11:59 today.

Photo Credit: AFP File Photo, US Department of State.

The image shown above in its full size is available [here](#).

More images are available in [BBSNews Photos](#).

fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Surrendering Taylor to the Special Court is crucial not only to ensure justice is done for crimes committed during the Sierra Leone conflict, but also to ensure stability in West Africa, the Campaign Against Impunity said. 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 and, more recently, the Mano River Union have expressed concern over Taylor's potential for fomenting instability in the region. The July 28 communiqué issued by the Mano River Union cited allegations of Taylor's involvement in an attack on the Guinean president, gathering armed people in the forests of Liberia, and making telephone calls to Liberian officials. In his June 7 report on Liberia, the U.N. secretary-general stated that Taylor is reportedly in regular contact with former business, military and political associates in Liberia and is suspected of supporting candidates in Liberia's October presidential election.

"On the second anniversary of Charles Taylor's flight to Nigeria, his continued impunity is undermining the rule of law in West Africa and putting civilians in the region at risk," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice program at Human Rights Watch, which is part of the campaign.

"African leaders owe it to their people to work vigorously with President Obasanjo to see that Taylor faces trial expeditiously." Kolawole Olaniyan, Africa program director at Amnesty International, which is also part of the campaign.

The first public call for Nigeria to surrender Taylor to face trial came from the European Parliament in February of this year in the form of a resolution. Later in May, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed similar resolutions. During a visit to West Africa last month, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour called for Taylor to appear for trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and for African leaders to urge President Obasanjo to hand over Taylor.

The campaign called on members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to follow the example of the Mano River Union and speak out on the need for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court. SADC is holding its annual summit in Gaborone, Botswana in the coming days.

"The moment for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court is now," said James Paul Allen, a Sierra Leonean human rights activist involved in the campaign. "The indictment for Charles Taylor on war crimes and crimes against humanity must be honored. The victims in Sierra Leone who suffered grave crimes under international law should not be forced to wait any longer."

Partners in the Campaign Against Impunity in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa held events today, including interfaith services in Lagos and Calabar (the city where Taylor now resides), to mark the second anniversary of Taylor's arrival in Nigeria with a call for his surrender.

To view this document on the Human Rights Watch web site, please visit: [Nigeria: Surrender Taylor to War Crimes Court](#).

Please help support the research that made this bulletin possible. In order to protect our objectivity, Human Rights Watch does not accept funding from any government. We depend entirely on the generosity of people like you. To make a contribution, please visit <http://hrw.org/donations/>

###