

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:

Thursday, August 18, 2005

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Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216

Standard Times. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

Lawyer Jabbie takes 7 points of fraud to court

BY MOHAMED ISSA

The case against the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples' party (SLPP) and Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, opened yesterday at the Supreme Court in

Freetown amidst great expectations from the public, who have been following the party's fortunes in the past couple of months.

In his presentation to the panel of judges who are cur-

rently sitting on the matter, Dr. Bubukai Jabibe, lawyer for Chief Sam Hinga Norman made a seven-point declaration to the court, presided over by Chief Justice Ade Renner Thomas, in

support of his request on behalf of his client, for an injunction restraining the party from electing a party leader at the scheduled convention.

In his submissions, lawyer Jabbie disclosed that the SLPP constitution has so many flaws that need to be addressed before conven-

tion if at all it was meant to be democratic, quoting relevant portions of the national constitution, the SLPP constitution and the Electoral Commission's Political Parties Act, adding that it will be incongruous and a contravention of democratic principles if the convention were to be held under those conditions.

One major section of the national constitution that lawyer Jabbie emphasized was Section 35 Sub-Section 4 of the national constitution, which stipulates that no political party should elect a leader who is not qualified to become a member of parliament.

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Lawyer Jabbie takes 7 points of fraud to court

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The learned lawyer also quoted a portion in the party constitution which ruled against the idea of any person holding an executive post in the SLPP and at the same time acting or holding a ministerial, presidential, V.P. or any executive position in the national government, and referred to the status quo as a blatant viola-

tion of both the party constitution and the national constitution.

He concluded his presentation by emphasizing that a vacancy should exist for three or four months before any party election, and implored the judges to give the people the opportunity to choose their leaders without recourse to the old tricks of political machinations.

Present in court on behalf of the party were Sama Banya, national chairman, and Prince Harding, national secretary general and minister of transport and communications, both of whom are respectively the first and second accused in the case.

The case is adjourned to today.

Unity. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

SLPP test case resumes today

By John Momoh

The arguments being advanced in the constitutional test case now at the Supreme Court involving the plaintiff, Sam Hinga Norman and three defendants including the party, the National Chairman Dr. Sama Banya and the secretary General of the party Dr. Prince Harding entered its second day yesterday.



Norman - testing the waters

The plaintiff's lawyer Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie taking the stand. The question from the learned Chief Justice Thomas Ade-Renner that brought standstill in the court is: "Did you bring the anomalies in the leadership of the party before the National Electoral Commission before going to court?"

After a minute's pause, Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie

responded that he would have to consult with his client, Sam Hinga Norman, before answering the question. He added that the issue is not complaining the SLPP, but certain conducts emanating within the party in contravention of the provisions of the party's constitution and the National Conference.

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SLPP test case resumes today

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Dr. Jabbie pointed to the fact that for a long time and under similar circumstances, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has been serving as both President of the Republic while Vice President Solomon Berewa continue to serve in the dual capacity of vice president and Deputy leader of the party.

He stressed moreover, that under section 124(1) and section 127, sub (1) the plaintiff was obliged to bring the action to the Supreme Court.

Dr. Jabbie emphasized that the holding of two positions – that of the Minister of Transport and Communications as well as National Secretary General of the SLPP at the same time for that length of time, we cannot go to High Court due to section 124 and 127, but to the Supreme Court.

Asked about the plaintiff's statement of case, Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie noted that the objective of the plaintiff's case is clearly spelt out in Section 27 and 29 of the constitution which spells out drastic consequences that follow violations and misconduct by a political party.

He outlined that these sections are meant to ensure compliance with democratic principles in the case of things going offhand as my client has been a faithful member of the SLPP for the past thirty years, adding that it is a legitimate action.

Dr. Jabbie cited that sub-section 6(2D) of the political parties Act, does not obligate aggrieved parties to go to the electoral Commission before going to court.

He said the political parties Act came into effect eleven years after the promulgation of the National Constitution, adding that section 14(sect 1) numbers 3, of the political parties Act of 2002 reads that a political party shall not have its founding member or a person who is not qualified to be a parliamentarian to serve as party leader.

The plaintiff's lawyer noted that the reason for the 1991 enactment was to ensure that no one person shall hold a post at the national and national party executive level at the same time.

Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie therefore in an answer to Chief Justice Thomas

Ade-Renner made the declaration that the position of party leader, one of the posts that was to be contested at the SLPP Makeni Convention should remain like that.

He supported his submission to Relief Paragraph h3 and 3 (sub2), stressing that I wish to observed that President Kabbah and Vice President Solomon Berewa continue to serve as national leaders as well as party leaders.

According to Dr. Jabbie, the incumbent National Chairman, Dr. Banya, is not affected by his declaration, and that the third defendant, the SLPP is responsible for the anomalies.

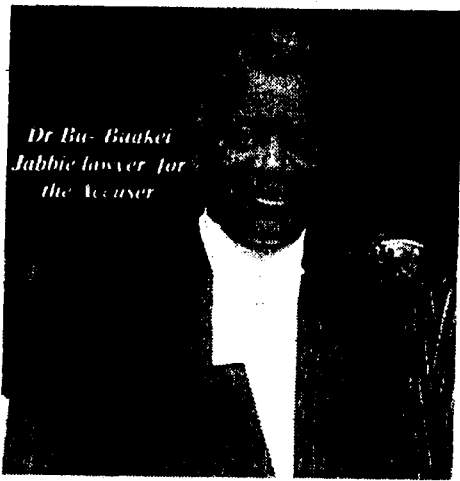
The defence was represented by lawyer Eke Hamoway, Luseni Massaquoi, Labour Minister Alpha Timbo while the plaintiff team of lawyers, were led by Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie.

Among personalities at the hearing were Ministers, Parliamentarians, Unamsil observers and a cross-section of the population.

Hearing resumes today.

Awoko. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

By Ophaniel Gooding
Lawyer Dr Bu-Buakei
Jabbie representing
plaintiff Chief Samuel
Hinga Norman at the
Supreme Court in the Sierra
Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)
constitutional tussle yesterday
said, "the conference is
premature for various
reasons." Submitting a six-
stage marathon argument, Dr.
Jabbie explained that the
election of a presidential
nominee 2 years to the
elections in 2007 is in
contravention of section 35



Dr Bu-Buakei
Jabbie lawyer for
the Accuser

(2) of the constitution adding
that the vacancy is so far
away that it will be
premature for an election of
a presidential nominee to be
held now. He maintained, "Within
the framework of section 43a of
the National Constitution it is
absolutely premature." Dr. Jabbie
said that his plaintiff is a member

of the SLPP and wants to stop
the abnormalities occurring
within the party. Dr. Jabbie
continued, "... Certain
conducts emanating from within
the SLPP is in contravening the
National Constitution." Speaking
about the main thrust of his
argument, Dr. Jabbie said, "we
do not want the

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SLPP conference is premature

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nomination to commence in
2005." He continued, "The
election in 2005 would
affect an amendment on the
SLPP constitution." The
plaintiff's barrister further
submitted, "... anybody who
at anytime is either the
President, the Vice..." or a
minister or deputy minister in

"the Government of Sierra
Leone is not qualified at
anytime why he holds that
position." Presiding Judge,
Chief Justice Dr Ade
Renner-Thomas reacting to
the plaintiff barrister's
submission asked whether
the declaration they are about
to seek would put things in
order. Chief Justice Dr Ade

Renner-Thomas continued,
since your client is "... a
devoted member of the
SLPP what in your client
view would cure this
violation." adding, "we at the
Supreme Court want to
make a declaration that is
final..." which would be
binding on all. Dr Jabbie
continues today.

Concord Times. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

Hinga Norman's lawyer wants permanent injunction

Story: Regina Pratt
Dr. Bu Buaki Jabbie, counsel for the plaintiff, war crimes indicted and leadership aspirant for the SLPP (Sierra

Leone Peoples Party) Chief Sam Hinga Norman versus the Chairman, Secretary General and the SLPP membership, Wednesday, submitted to the Supreme

Court that he wants a permanent injunction imposed on the forthcoming delegates' congress slated for 19th -20th August 2005.

He based his argument on the originating notice of motion and the statement made by the plaintiff citing certain sections of the Political Parties Act, the SLPP constitution and the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone.

Chief Justice Ade Renner-Thomas in his address queried Dr. Jabbie's justification for a permanent injunction.

He further asked him about his objective for his action and what benefit his client would derive.

"You have to convince the court to grant this declaration," the judge said and asked counsel Dr. Jabbie whether his client brought the said constitutional violation to the attention of the SLPP leadership. "Do you think that the declaration you are seeking would put things in order because what the Supreme Court rules is final?" The Judge asked Dr. Jabbie.

The plaintiffs' counsel said they have seen certain conducts emanating in the SLPP and their choices are limited, as they cannot go to the High Court because their case would be thrown out.

He maintained that if the party chooses the wrong person as leader, it would cost them the presidency.



Chief Hinga Norman - another Mandela?

Awareness Times. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

SLPP Court Case...

Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie talks tough

By Abu Bakary Munk
Legal luminary Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie representing detained former Kamajor Chief Sam Hinga Norman, as plaintiff in the ongoing Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) constitutional row at the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, yesterday, spent well over four hours advancing a seven-point argument to substantiate

his client's case against the defendants.

Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie, addressing a panel of five judges headed by His Lordship the Chief Justice, Dr. Ade Renner Thomas, stated categorically that the appointment of a presidential nominee or candidate at a forthcoming National Delegates Conference at this point in the political calendar

of the country, is absolutely premature, adding that the prematurity of electing a presidential nominee at this stage, would badly deprive the SLPP as a party in particular and the people of Sierra Leone generally, of a good leader. He further stated that the act, if done, will go contrary to not only the National Constitution but



Kabbah: what's up?
the party's constitution as well.
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Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie Talks Tough

From front page

Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie further argued that section 43a of the National Constitution makes provision for a presidential nominee or candidate to be elected within the last three to four months before the life span of the government in power ends. This he said, is the prescribed period in the National Constitution for which a presidential nominee is to be appointed.

He argued further that the implications of electing a

presidential nominee at a premature stage, are enshrined in section 3 subsection (2) 2 of the National Constitution. These implications, he said borders on unfairness to the party and were undemocratic in nature. Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie went on to point out in his submission that the specified elements in the provision of the party's constitution are identified in paragraph 4 and that they are also stated in paragraph 16 of the plaintiff's case, which are in consonant

with the constitution of the SLPP.

The case comes up again this morning.

In the now celebrated case which has resulted in the postponement of the convention of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party as a result of an undertaking made by the defendant respondent, that the first, second and third accused, the SLPP Chairman, Secretary General and the Party itself undertook on Monday before the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone

that the conference for the proposes of electing party officers will not be convened for the purposes of electing or nominating a presidential nominee or candidate and or either of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party at the said party conference or at any other party conference in 2005 until the Supreme Court gives a ruling on the motion made by Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbi taking into consider-

ation concerns raised by the plaintiff applicant, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Yesterday, the plaintiff applicant, Special Court indictee, Sam Hinga Norman whose lawyer, Bu-buekei Jabbi commenced his substantive argument the thrust of which was that anybody who holds the position of vice President cannot become a mem-

ber of Parliament and by extension, such a holder of government office should not hold a party office.

Dr. Jabbi's point of emphasis was that all people who hold presidential, vice presidential and ministerial offices should resign their positions in

government to qualify them to contest for party offices, even at the regional, constituency and chiefdom levels.

In his argument in his favour of the postponement of the election of a party leader or a presidential candidate, he also said that if at this time

within 2005 a leader or a presidential candidate is elected, when the election is supposed to take place in 2007 that in itself will put the party at risk.

Bu-buekei Jabbi in his argument yesterday heavily relied on provi-

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From page 1 **SLPP, THE BATTLE CONTINUES**

ions of the state constitution, the constitution of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party and the political parties Act to justify his point.

He came up with the argument that people who shall hold executive offices can not also be officials of the political party. He quoted section 36 (4), which reads - "no political party shall have as a leader a person who is not qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament."

He further stated that the need for those people who hold public office to resign their positions is found in Section 76 (1) (h), which reads - "no

person shall be qualified for election as a Member of Parliament ... if he is for the time being the president, the vice president, president, a minister, or a deputy minister under the provision of this constitution."

The extension of Bu-buekei Jabbi is that since there is the possibility that the president, the vice president or a minister or a deputy minister may likely contest for the leadership of the SLPP party which will qualify them to contest for the presidency, such a contest would be ultra-vires the provisions in Section 76 but more particularly, 76 (1) (h),

which clearly states that the president or the vice president or a minister can not qualify to be a Member of Parliament.

Bu-buekei Jabbi also quoted from the political party's Act Section 14 (1) stipulates in very simple terms that nobody shall be a founding member of a political party or executive member of a party if such people are qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament.

In Sierra Leone the Vice President and Ministers do not necessarily have to be members of Parliament.

Dr. Bu-buekei Jabbi will continue his submission today at the Supreme Court.



Chief Sam Hinga Norman

Recent political development in the SLPP camp shows that the leadership race is not sailing as the party is facing rugged path towards 2007. When Special Court Indictee, Chief Sam Hinga

Norman made his declaration in proxy for leadership race, Sierra Leoneans thought it was a big joke, not until when he barricaded the road leading to the party convention in Makeni through legal means then people realize that the party is faced with another thorny issue to overcome.

Hinga Norman's lawyer, Dr. Bu-buakei

Jabbie issued a stern warning against the party not to attempt to either nominate or elect a leader for the party. This warning was made at Supreme Court of the land presided over by chief justice Ade Renner Thomas and other four judges.

This latest development may pose a very serious threat to Berewa's vaulting am-



Berewa failing gradually

bition of becoming the flagbearer of the party. One school of thought is of the firm conviction that delegates

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SLPP GALLIVANTING *From front page*

may decide to go shopping for a suitable candidate among the other aspirants. Taking into consideration the previous utterances of VP Berewa in Bo and Kono where he blasphemously ridiculed the Christian faith and demonstrated uncontrollable anger against Rtd. Brig. Gen. Maada Bio respectively, the SLPP delegates, according to authoritative sources, are determined to pack their political bundles from the Berewa camp to another one who would provide the right type of leadership and who would be easily sold to the political market.

By John Lansana Musa, USA
FROM LAST ISSUE

They enjoy legal standing to complain and their palpable silence signals the tradition of quintessential politicians who will march to every drummer's beat in the fashion of politics as usual. As the classic equity maxim, "Equity aids the vigilant, not those who sleep on their rights," beckons the confounded aspirants to the SLPP nomination, they shrink before power politics as if they were citizens of Jonathan Swift's Lilliput. It has yet to dawn on their seeming addled ambitions that the outcome of this case will clearly affect the nomination and election of President. The judgment of the Court in favour of the early convention will have a chilling effect on party nominations because in the future, conveners seeking the advantage of vitriol in the nomination process will call conventions at their choosing where the Court has handed them the license for such caprices.

AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY?

Given the importance the case would bear on the political process, the Supreme Court must decide this case without validating the axiom that invariably decides in favour of the executive branch instead of being neutral and detached magistrates of an independent tribunal. Chief Justice Dr. Ade Ronner-Thomas and the Justices must acquit themselves and render a decision which does not pervert the electoral process instead of affirming that perverted custom that makes judges behave like commonplace handmaids of the executive branch of government. They must capture the great motive force behind our republic and decide in accordance with their role as an independent judiciary and beyond the expediency of the moment to tilt the nomination process. The court should aver that prospect and decide justly on the merits.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The heart of this motion is to suspend the SLPP convention scheduled in August. It should be allowed to happen in accordance with the laws governing political parties and preparations for elections. There is good cause for the Supreme Court to enjoin the SLPP from holding the announced snap convention as scheduled on three principal reasons affecting the fun-

damental constitutional rights of members of the SLPP and the electorate at large.

The first concerns the rights of the members to participate in a political process under the fundamental principles of the Right Assembly. The second, concerns the duty of the Republic to ensure that the democratic process is in concord with free and fair election standards. The third issue is whether party officials may snap up whimsical rules considered organic to the SLPP constitution, yet in violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Sierra Leone. It is framed in one of the consequences which this snap convention will cause. Thus, counsel for Norman, Dr. Baakei Jabbi, says among other things that "It is and will be likely to deprive the entire nation itself and the people of Sierra Leone as a whole of a possible better quality Presidential Candidate and potential ultimate President of Sierra Leone who, however, for reasons of present untimeliness or prematurity or otherwise, may not yet, as at 19-20 August 2005, or at any other time in 2005, have indicated his/her intentions or aspirations in respect thereof, but may wish as at the due and proper time in 2006 or 2007 to make such intentions or aspirations publicly known at the appropriate time, with all the possible attendant risks of prejudice (arising from an abrupt choice due to the said gross prematurity; to the prospects of good governance, peace and positive national economic and other development during the five to ten years following the next Presidential election."

To obtain the injunctive relief sought against the party officials to deter them from conducting delegates' convention, thereby selecting a nominee for the SLPP the moving party (Samuel Hinga Norman) must prove the essence of the argument we shall soon interpose below. So let us begin.

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A POLITICAL PROCESS IN A TIMELY FASHION

The snap notice two years ahead of the 2007 elections by SLPP officials to convene a delegates conference for August 19-20 at Makeni threatens the rights of party members, the SLPP and the nation from presenting a certain universe of qualified crop of aspirants for the nomination because of the timing of the conference. The SLPP and its adherents enjoy a constitution-

ally protected right of political association. There can no longer be any question that freedom to associate with others for the common advancement of political beliefs and ideas is a form of orderly group activity protected by Chapter Three rights in the 1991 constitution, the Banjul Charter on African Rights and the International Covenant Civil and Political Rights. An infringement of the right of association is conceived when caprice instead of law is used to call up conventions. We suspect usurpation of the nomination process when we know the incumbent Leader of the party has preselected his successor by endorsement instead of through the actual nominating process and a snap convention is called to crown the successor.

RIGHT

The rights of aspirants for the SLPP nomination would be harmed if the convention is not called off for its August 19-20 schedule. The rights are protected in the entrenched sections of the constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 under fundamental freedoms. To wit, section 26(1) grants that

"Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of assembly and association, that is to say his right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to any political party, trade unions or other economic, social or professional associations, national or international, for the protection of his interests."

And the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, (1981), art. 13(1), affirms this right when it says,

"Every citizen shall have the right to freely participate in the government of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law."

Moreover Article 25 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights provides the catchall provisions for this right:

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions,

TO BE CONTINUED

The Exclusive. Thursday August 18th, 2005.

By Joseph Turay & Mohamed Kai

The legal tussle over an injunction slammed on the SI PP by the Supreme Court prohibiting the election of a leader at their proposed August 18-19 convention ahead of the 2007 presidential elections, appears to be tearing

the party apart. Dr Brima Jabbie, who is the counsel representing plaintiff Chief Sam Hinga Norman, said yesterday at the Supreme Court that the party deliberately violated the National Constitution and even the Political Party's Act of 2002, by allowing certain politicians and executive members of the party to continue in the leadership of the party and other positions while sitting in office.

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The Struggle Continues

From front page

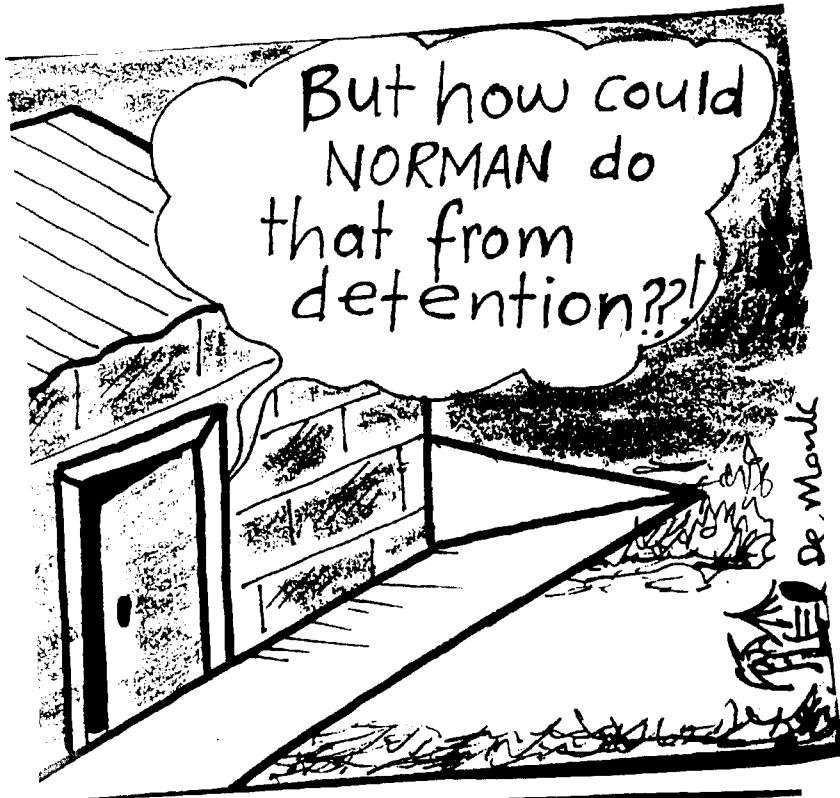
Making his submission to the presiding Judge Ade Renner-Thomas, Dr. Jabbie blamed the entire executive of the party including President Kabbah and his Vice as being responsible for such constitutional fraud.

Quoting certain sections of the Political Party's Act 2002, and from the SI PP's and the national constitution, Dr Jabbie pointed out that no person should at the same time hold the position of Vice President, Minister, or Deputy Minister while at the same time running for such positions in the party. The legal lummary said such persons must first of all resign their positions before taking such steps. He argued that it is a violation of the Political Party's Act of 2002, and even the national constitution noting that the executive of the party does not at this point in time, have the legitimate authority to convey such conference. The matter comes up again today.

The New Tempo. Thursday August 18th, 2015.

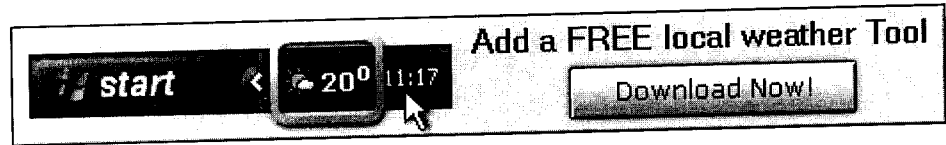






De. Monk





Opinion: A Free Charles Taylor Threatens West Africa

Vanguard (Lagos)

OPINION

August 17, 2005

Posted to the web August 17, 2005

By Pamela Adegbesan

When they escorted fugitive former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, into exile in Nigeria in August 2003, Africa's leaders hoped that his removal from power would ease the path to restoring stability to Liberia and its West African neighbours.

Two years later, the spectre of Mr. Taylor's transnational networks of violence hangs over West Africa's fragile transition from a prolonged period of war, and instability. He continues to avoid prosecution on an indictment before the United Nations-supported Special Court for Sierra Leone on wide-ranging allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. However recent turn of events shows that Mr Taylor's presence in Nigeria now threatens basic constitutional rights and civil liberties in his country of asylum.

On August 1, 2005, operatives of Nigeria's State Security Service (SSS) arrested and detained two printers, Steve Omali and Michael Damisa, for being in possession of advocacy campaign materials which they printed for the Coalition against Impunity.

The Coalition is an alliance of over 345 non-governmental organizations in 17 African and non-African countries campaigning to ensure that Mr. Taylor is held to account for international crimes for which he stands indicted.

At the request of the Coalition, Omali and Damisa had printed a set of posters on the "Charles Taylor: Wanted" campaign, which reproduced Interpol's "Red Notice", an international arrest warrant for Mr. Taylor issued to all Interpol member countries in August 2005. Nigeria is a member of Interpol. In addition to arresting the printers, the SSS confiscated 1000 copies of the posters.

The SSS detained the printers for three days during which it denied them access to visitors or lawyers. Michael Damisa's brother, Matthew, who went to the SSS to visit and verify the location in which his brother was held was similarly detained.

These detainees were not accused of any crime. Nigeria's Constitution prohibits administrative or any other form of detention for a period of more than 48 hours without judicial supervision.

Since these arrests, Nigeria's security services have launched an operation against the leadership of the Coalition against Impunity in the country.

They have declared wanted staff of the Open Society Justice Initiative in Nigeria, a leading organization in the Coalition and shut down the printers' workshop.

Nigeria's SSS has similarly moved to prevent an inter-faith initiative to hold inter-denominational vigils and prayers commemorating the death of Nigerian and other West Africans killed and violated in Mr. Taylor's many West African wars.

Since he fled into exile in Nigeria, Mr. Taylor has consistently failed to observe his own part of the implicit asylum bargain that prohibits him from interfering in Liberia's domestic politics. Rather, he is active in supporting and sponsoring candidates in Liberia's forthcoming transitional elections. Nigeria's President Obasanjo has consistently argued that he offered asylum to Mr. Taylor with the full consent and at the request of the African Union and the international community and is now, therefore, precluded in honour from turning him over for trial.

Even when it is conceded that the international community persuaded Nigeria to host Mr. Taylor, according to him refugee status was evidently the wrong instrument to achieve this goal. As a national of a member country of the regional organisation, ECOWAS, Mr. Taylor could easily have entered and stayed in Nigeria under the regional regime of visa-free movement in West Africa without the cover of refugee status.

Mr. Taylor is the latest in a long line of former African rulers to receive and enjoy asylum for killing their own people and egregiously violating the sanctity of human life. Other recent examples include Uganda's Idi Amin who died in exile in Saudi Arabia; Idi Amin's predecessor, Milton Obote who remains exiled in Zambia; Somalia's Siad Barré who died in exile in Nigeria, Chad's Hissene Habre currently exiled in Senegal, and Ethiopia's Mengistu Haile Mariam currently also exiled in Zimbabwe.

Extending the facility of asylum to such persons threatens a hallowed humanitarian institution with irreparable disrepute and encourages impunity.

The campaign by Nigeria's security services to suppress lawful demands for Mr. Taylor to be brought to justice for his crimes is further proof of the many ways in which a free Charles Taylor threatens the stability of West Africa and the future of constitutional governance in the region. Mr. Taylor's continued stay in Nigeria similarly threatens President Obasanjo's desire to secure for Nigeria a permanent seat on the United Nation's Security Council. The only way to address these threats is for Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to stand trial. After Liberia's transitional election on 11 October 2005. President Obasanjo's government will run out of excuses for avoiding or postponing this sensible and necessary course of action.

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