

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:**

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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

Awoko

28 September 2005

Revealed at Special Court

Tejan Kabbah offered sacrifice to be reinstated

Tejan Kabbah offered sacrifice

From Front Page
Commander C that they should locate Gullit and inform him that they were coming. "When we went there Gullit told us that Colonels Bio and Bomblast were witches and they were the ones bewitching the movement of the troops from going further." Continuing, "I went to enquire from Bio and he told me that all the allegation by Gullit were all false as Gullit had said that when the troop came, Commander C. should take command from him and he should not take command from Commander C." The witness also maintained that as the investigation continued, he was told by Issa that as they

approached Karinah, Gullit ordered them that they should engage in massive killing as the village was where President Tejan Kabbah was born. As they entered the village, they started throwing children into fires, burning the mosque and killing women. TF1-184 noted "I then reported my findings to Commander C. who then called all the members of the Council to a meeting at his house. During this time Father Mario was asked to leave the meeting." Maintaining "at the meeting, Commander C. told the men that he captured Father Mario for three things. One was for them to be supplied with medicines; two was for them to get a Satellite

Phone so that they will be able to communicate with the international community. The third reason was for them to be reinstated back. The Commander also said that they should not target civilians as they are fighting a just cause." The witness went on to say that Commander C. also informed the council members that they only have one reason they are fighting for, which is because they have disbanded the army so they should reinstate the army. The witness who said he was a trained soldier told the court that Commander C told them that they did wrong by overthrowing an elected Government and if they engage in the killing of civilians, then they won't be recognised by the international community.

By Betty Milton
During examination in chief, prosecution witness TF1- 184 has revealed that while he was in jungle with the AFRC forces, he received information that President Tejan Kabbah used 7 white and 7 black cows for sacrifice in a bid to be reinstated. The witness said they went to camp Rosas where Gullit was based, and he was asked to

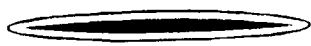
mount an investigation for certain things that had been going wrong. This was when he was told by Yapo, Issa and Six Finger that some people came from Guinea and told Gullit that President Tejan Kabbah offered sacrifice for him to be reinstated. Gullit the witness said, according to the three men did not have the cows to offer this sacrifice

so that he too may be returned to power so he too decided to bury two children alive. The witness further stated that, the troop that was headed by Commander C. was first based in Krubola but because of the in fighting between them and the RUF they were advised to leave the area so it was decided by

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Biography of Mr. Lovemore Munlo Interim Registrar of the Special Court

Mr. Lovemore Green Munlo, of Malawi, has been appointed Interim Registrar of the Special Court from 1 October to 31 December 2005. He is currently Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where he has served since October 2001. From May 1994 to October 2001, he was in private legal practice as a partner in the law firm of Green Munlo & Co. From September 1993 to May 1994, Mr. Munlo served as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Malawi, and from January 1992 to September 1993 he served as Deputy Minister of External Affairs. From 1990 to 1992, he was a Judge of the High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal; from 1987 to 1990 he served as Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 1984 to 1987 as Director of Public Prosecutions in the Attorney-General's Chamber. Prior to that, he was a Senior State Advocate and State Advocate in the Attorney-General's Chamber. Mr. Munlo received a Law Degree from the University of Malawi in 1976 and a Master's Degree (LL.M) in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1989.



Human Rights Watch

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Liberia: Despite Elections, Collapse of Justice Poses Risks

Incoming Government Must Ensure Justice for War Crimes, Keep Human Rights Abusers Out of Police, Army and Civil Service

(Dakar, September 30, 2005)—If a return to armed conflict in Liberia is to be avoided, the new government to be elected on October 11 must ensure that those responsible for past atrocities are brought to justice and that human rights abusers are kept out of the police, army and civil service, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

On October 11, Liberia will hold its first national elections since the signing of a peace agreement in 2003. At stake in the polls are the presidency, the 30-seat Senate and the 64-seat House of Representatives. While preparations, registration and campaigning in the October elections have been free of major irregularities, leaders in the country's incoming government will need to pay more attention to the critical issues of justice and human rights than they have on the campaign trail, Human Rights Watch said.

The 39-page report, "Liberia at a Crossroads: Human Rights Challenges for the New Government," warned that Liberia's transition from a near-failed state to a democratic country governed by rule of law cannot be considered complete until there is considerably more progress in several key areas. First, Liberia's judicial system, which remains plagued by striking deficiencies, must be rebuilt with the help of the international community. Second, the process of restructuring and reconstituting Liberia's national police and army, which have for decades preyed upon the populations they are entrusted to protect, must be completed without delay. Finally, the individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Liberia's armed conflicts must be kept out of the civil service, police and army and be held accountable for their crimes.

"After enduring more than two decades of political instability including 14 years of brutal armed conflict, Liberia stands at an unprecedented crossroads," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa division at Human Rights Watch. "But failure to establish the rule of law and ensure justice for horrific crimes of war could undermine the hard-won stability in Liberia and the region as a whole."

From the military coup in 1980 to the overthrow of President Charles Taylor in 2003, Liberian citizens were subjected to continual violations of civil and political rights by successive governments as well as widespread and systematic war crimes committed by

all warring factions during the country's two devastating armed conflicts. The violence blighted the lives of tens of thousands of Liberians.

Candidates in the upcoming elections include at least three former leaders of armed factions, five individuals subject to United Nations sanctions for activities aimed at undermining peace in Liberia and the sub-region, and several former high-level military commanders accused of war crimes. These individuals, who have in the past shown complete disregard for the rule of law and due process, could resort to force and other extra-legal measures to circumvent and subvert Liberia's political process and the legal system if elected to office, Human Rights Watch said.

Human Rights Watch called on the incoming government, together with the international community, to develop a concrete strategy to ensure justice for serious past human rights crimes and to establish an independent commission charged with instituting a vetting process to screen out human rights abusers appointed to or under consideration for civil service positions.

For decades, the Liberian police and army have been used as a repressive arm of successive governments and their ruling parties, and been the source of considerable instability, corruption and human rights violations. However, the vetting procedure designed to screen out past human rights abusers from the new Liberian Police Service was most likely ineffective in screening out past abusers. Problems with the process included unclear criteria for the elimination of potential human rights abusers and inadequate human resources to conduct thorough and systematic background checks on applicants. The new government must ensure that DynCorp, a U.S.-based contractor charged with restructuring the new army, pays attention to and corrects some of the problems that have plagued the vetting process for the Liberian National Police.

Immediately after the elections, the new government and international community will need to begin rebuilding the severely dysfunctional Liberian judicial system, which was left in ruins by the years of civil war. Human Rights Watch noted that the absence of functioning courtrooms, prosecutors and public defenders—as well as corruption within judicial proceedings—is actually fostering impunity instead of confronting it.

Human Rights Watch welcomed the recognition by the current Liberian government, the presidential hopefuls and the international community of the key role played by endemic corruption in creating conditions for armed conflict and political instability. At the same time, however, the new Liberian government and the international community must demonstrate a parallel commitment to improving deficiencies in the Liberian judicial system and key public institutions while ensuring that those most responsible for past human rights crimes are held accountable.

“Liberia's newly elected government will need to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law and respect for human rights by prosecuting the key individuals who were responsible for atrocities in the country's armed conflicts,” said Takirambudde.

One of the individuals believed to be most responsible for war crimes in Liberia is former president Charles Taylor, currently in exile in Nigeria. Human Rights Watch urged Liberia's incoming government to ask Nigeria to surrender Taylor for prosecution to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for his involvement in crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war. However, the new government must also ensure that Taylor is held accountable for war crimes he is accused of committing in Liberia.

"Surrendering Charles Taylor to the Special Court is crucial for ensuring justice for the victims of crimes in Sierra Leone," said Takirambudde. "But justice must also be done for the countless victims of war crimes Taylor allegedly committed in Liberia as both rebel leader and president."

BACKGROUND

Liberia's first armed conflict began in 1989 when rebel leader Charles Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia launched a rebellion to unseat then-President Samuel K. Doe. The conflict, which lasted from 1989 to 1996, ended with an internationally brokered peace accord that included a general amnesty to all faction fighters. The transition from war to peace envisioned under the accord was never completed due to incomplete implementation of the peace accords, particularly regarding the need to restructure the security forces prior to elections. Instead, the 1997 elections, which Taylor went on to win, were conducted in an atmosphere of threats and intimidation.

As president, Taylor enrolled thousands of fighters from his former faction in the country's police and army, which resulted in continued pillage and human rights abuses and, ultimately, a return to civil war in 1999. During Liberia's second armed conflict, two rebel groups—the Guinea-backed Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy and the Ivorian-backed Movement for Democracy in Liberia—launched their own bid to unseat President Taylor. In August 2003, as the rebels threatened to take over the capital Monrovia, Taylor was granted political asylum in Nigeria on the condition that he not meddle in the political affairs of Liberia or elsewhere in West Africa. Taylor was in March 2003 indicted by the Special Court in Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in supporting rebel groups in Sierra Leone.

In August 2003, Liberia's warring factions signed an internationally brokered peace agreement in Accra, Ghana. The accord installed a broad-based interim government—the National Transitional Government of Liberia—which was dominated by the country's three former armed factions and tasked with guiding Liberia towards elections in October 2005. Since August 2003, several factors have contributed to a marked decrease in human rights abuses and political instability and helped establish the conditions for the elections to take place. These included the departure of Charles Taylor into exile, the establishment of the U.N. Mission in Liberia in September 2003, and the subsequent deployment of about 15,000 peacekeepers and 1,000 civilian police to Liberia.

SIERRA LEONE PRESS REVIEW
UNAMSIL

Tuesday 27 September 2005

ECONOMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

The Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC) has issued a 21-day ultimatum to government to address certain issues pertaining to the general welfare of the people of Sierra Leone, and the impact of the recent price increase of petroleum products on the people. The SLLC has threatened to embark on an industrial action if government does not address their demand.

The Head of Milton Margai School for the Blind, Samuel Campbell, has accused government of discriminating against graduate blind students from tertiary institutions in the country for not providing them employment in their respective fields of study.

The Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Alpha Timba, has disclosed that parents of Sierra Leoneans contracted in Iraq, have started receiving salaries of US \$ 150 deposit on behalf of their children. The Minister also disclosed that more than 1,000 Sierra Leoneans were waiting to go to Iraq, though the company that was in charge of the contract, has cancelled the contract until further notice.

FOOD SECURITY

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Dennis Bright over the weekend commissioned a 20-horse power maize and rice milling machine in the Port Loko district, northern Sierra Leone. The 1.5 tons rice mill is part of the UNDP's and the Ministry of Youth and Sports engagement and job creation project for youths to enhance their capacity in rural farming.

HEALTH

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has started a nation-wide sensitization and training on HIV/AIDS prevention. The objective of the sensitization is to increase level on HIV/AIDS awareness among communities, so as to enhance positive attitudes and behaviour to prevent the spread, and minimize impact of those already affected by the disease.

About 30 nurses attached to the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Prisons Department, have ended a three-day workshop on Syndromic Management on Sexually Transmitted Infections. The workshop was sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), in collaboration with the National Aids Secretariat (NAS).

Meanwhile, a Ghanaian Consulting Firm, Nimba, and NAS have reported that about 135,000 Sierra Leoneans are infected with HIV/AIDS.