

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:


Wednesday, October 05, 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

[Print](#)

US Circulating UN Resolution To Have UN Troops Arrest Charles Taylor

By Joe De Capua
Washington
04 October 2005

De Capua interview on Charles Taylor mp3 

De Capua interview on Charles Taylor ra 

-- The United States reportedly is circulating a resolution that calls on UN peacekeepers in Liberia to arrest former president Charles Taylor should he return home. Mr. Taylor has been living in exile in Nigeria since August 2003 but has been indicted on war crimes charges by the UN-backed special court in Sierra Leone.

The Associated Press reports the resolution calls on the peacekeepers to then turn Mr. Taylor over to the special court.

Peter Anderson is a spokesman for the special court. From Sierra Leone, he spoke with English to Africa reporter Joe De Capua about the UN resolution.

He says, "Well, I read the same press reports that you did and I can tell you what our position is on Charles Taylor...Mr. Taylor was indicted by this court in March of 2003. So our position is that there's a valid warrant of arrest. There's a case for him to answer approved by judges of this international tribunal and that no matter where he is and under any circumstances he should be turned over to the court for trial."

Nigeria has said it might consider a request from a democratically elected government in Liberia to turn Mr. Taylor over. So does the special court have any particular interest in Liberia's October 11th elections?

Mr. Anderson says, "We don't have any specific interest in the outcome of the Liberian elections. Of course, we're a court. We're not involved in politics. We just look for whomever to respond to the indictment and to turn Charles Taylor over to the court." If the former Liberian leader were to be handed over today, would the court be ready to prosecute? Mr. Anderson says, "That's what the prosecutor has told us and he's said that he's trial ready."

[Print](#)

The Perspective

Atlanta, Georgia

October 4, 2005

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

-SNIP-

On her alleged support given to Mr. Charles Taylor:

I am just sad that Mr. Taylor's propaganda has been so effective because that's what it is. My support for Charles Taylor compared with the support he received from the Liberian people generally is so small. In the early days of this movement when we were fighting the military regime and felt that the pressure he brought would contribute to our achieving the kinds of changes we wanted in a military regime under which we suffered greatly, we tried to help. We had been through prison and we had been terrorized by this regime. Unfortunately, we didn't know Charles Taylor and just took his movement at face value; he was never a colleague of ours. We were in the United States with an institution and tried to support him but just six months into the movement, we found out that all he really wanted was power and personal enrichment. Some of our colleagues were killed by him, and since then we have opposed him. I have challenged successive governments for their failures to meet the needs of our people. I have worked consistently on the same principles. So the one thing they could come up with is that I supported Taylor.

What to Do with Taylor if she is elected:

Mr. Taylor has been indicted by the international war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone. Liberia is a good standing member – and a founding member – of the UN. The laws must take its course. Whatever he did in Liberia is a matter for the future, right now he needs to go defend himself before the special court that has indicted him for crimes committed in Sierra Leone.

-SNIP-

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 Oct 2005**

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

10/03/2005 21:17:03

U.S. Seeks Arrest of Ex-Liberia Leader

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) The United States has circulated a resolution calling on U.N. peacekeepers in Liberia to arrest former Liberian President Charles Taylor if he returns and hand him over to the war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone for prosecution.

The draft resolution, obtained Monday by the Associated Press, would give the nearly 15,000-strong peacekeeping force authority to apprehend Taylor, who was given asylum in Nigeria after giving up the presidency in August 2003, "in the event of a return to Liberia."

International Clips on West Africa

10/04/2005 04:57:51

Peacekeepers Prepare to Leave Sierra Leone

By EDITH M. LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS (AP) U.N. peacekeepers preparing to pull out of Sierra Leone say they have completed the mission they began six years ago but warn the country still has a long way to go before it recovers from one of Africa's most brutal wars.

Local Media – Newspapers**Local Media – RADIO VERITAS** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 and today at 06:45)***Nearly 2,500 Police to Be Deployed for Elections**

- Close to 2,500 police supported by 1,453 officers from other security agencies are preparing for deployment across Liberia to provide security on elections day, Police Commissioner for Public Affairs Yvonne Stuart-Barh said in Monrovia yesterday. She called for the timely provision of needed logistics and allowances to expedite the deployment.

Women's Group urges Independent Aspirants to Remove Hitches in Elections

- Women In Peace Building Network head Laymah Gbowee yesterday appealed to independent presidential aspirants Marcus Jones and Cornelius Hunter to allow the elections to be held on schedule by abandoning their quest to participate. She said there would be serious implications if the elections were postponed to include the two candidates in keeping with a recent Supreme Court ruling.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

STAR RADIO (*News culled from Star Radio website today at 09:00*)

Nigerian President to Visit Liberia In Run-Up to Elections

- Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo will arrive in Liberia on Friday to bolster support for the elections next week by encouraging Liberians to turn out and vote, Information Minister Dr. William Allen said yesterday.

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 or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.



Liberian poll: The main contenders

Liberia's 2005 presidential elections have attracted 22 candidates vying for the country's highest office. The BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh in Monrovia takes a glimpse at the six candidates who opinion polls have indicated are the most likely winners.

GEORGE WEAH

George Weah, 39, is widely acclaimed as Africa's greatest ever footballer after being crowned World Player of the year in 1995.

However, as a politician he is a novice.

Weah was born and raised in a Monrovia slum. He is of the Kru ethnic group and originally hails from south-eastern Grand Kru County, one of Liberia's most under-developed areas.

Weah's international football career saw him play for, amongst others, French Clubs AS Monaco, Paris Saint Germain and Olympique Marseille; the Italian side AC Milan, and English clubs Chelsea and Manchester City.

"Oppong", as the former Liberian captain is fondly called, has little formal education which, he says, is supported by an online Associate of Arts degree in Sports Administration.

Opponents have suggested he could easily be manipulated if elected.

While eyeing the presidency and waiting for Charles Taylor to step down, Weah resided in Ghana and New York where he still has assets.

His Jamaican wife and family reside abroad, but newspapers in Monrovia have recently reported her expression of support for her husband's bid.

Attempts by Weah's opponents to disenfranchise him in August by declaring him a French citizen were over-ruled by the elections commission when the commission said those making the claims did not have evidence to back their stand.

George Weah's party, the Congress for Democratic Change, is one of the newest in the Liberian political arena.

Weah says his critics and opponents "have failed the national test to lead the country" and it is time for him to try.

He says his dream is "to do for Liberia what others have failed to do for the country in the 158 years of its existence" and to provide basic social services.

He wants the presidential term reduced from six to four years.

ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, 66, was Liberia's finance minister in the late 1970s. Her Unity Party came a distant second to Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Party in the 1997 election.

Mrs Sirleaf served as Director for Africa at the United Nations Development Programme.

The "Iron Lady", as her supporters fondly call her, served as head of the Governance Reform Commission set up as part of the deal to end Liberia's civil war in 2003.

She resigned that post to contest the presidency, criticising the transitional government's inability to fight corruption.

Mrs Sirleaf's presidential bid is still haunted by remarks she made in a radio interview in the early days of Charles Taylor's rebellion.

She said that if Taylor demolished the presidency to get Samuel Doe out of power, they would all help to rebuild it.

During a public debate that brought 11 of the 22 candidates together at the Independence Pavilion in Monrovia, Mrs Sirleaf out-smarted a male presidential candidate who tried to use his selection of a female running mate to win favour from Liberian women.

"We don't want a woman second best; we want a woman best," Sirleaf said, to wild applause.

Mrs Sirleaf, a divorcee whose ex-husband died a few years ago, is the mother of four sons.

She wants to become president in order "to bring motherly sensitivity and emotion to the presidency" as a way of healing the wounds of war.

She says she is keen on declaring war against corruption.

WINSTON TUBMAN

Winston Tubman, in his mid-60s, served as Liberia's Justice Minister during the regime of soldier-turned politician Samuel Doe in the 1980s.

He is still running on the ticket of Mr Doe's party. Mr Tubman is a nephew of Liberia's longest-serving President, William VS Tubman, who ruled for 27 years.

Winston Tubman resigned his post this year as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia to contest the presidency.

He believes in pluralistic democracy, but thinks "all these political parties are just too many for this small country".

The career diplomat wants to take his cue from the peace that existed during the regime of his uncle, and provide a sound leadership for Liberia.

Winston Tubman is a crowd man who judges his chances from the faces he sees around him.

His supporters think that in a country where home-based politicians are at each other's throats, someone like him is a compromise candidate to preside over the nation.

CHARLES BRUMSKINE

Charles Walker Brumskine, a 64-year-old who hails from southern Grand Bassa County, is an astute lawyer.

He was leader of the Upper House of Parliament during the regime of ex-president Charles Taylor.

But when he fell out of favour with Taylor in 1999, he went into exile in the United States.

Mr Brumskine returned home in 2003, describing Liberia under Taylor as a failed state and pariah nation.

He had planned to stand as a candidate against Charles Taylor in the election that was aborted by the stepping down of Taylor and the installation of a post-Taylor transitional government.

Charles Brumskine and his Liberty Party want to introduce the necessary reforms Liberia needs, and he is keen on seeing the extradition of Charles Taylor to face the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Mr Brumskine says serving in the Taylor government does not make him a part of what has landed the former president in trouble with the international community.

He has a female running mate. "My government will believe in the rule of law," he says, and sees sending Taylor to face the court as a way of satisfying international protocol.

ROLAND MASSAQUIO

Roland Massaquoio, a trained agriculturist and development planner, is the standard of the National Patriotic Party, the ruling party during the regime of Taylor.

Mr Massaquoio has served as minister of agriculture and planning and economic affairs.

The northerner is credited for encouraging and convening conferences that aimed at ending continued conflict in Liberia when the government of Charles Taylor was at war with rebel groups.

Unlike Taylor who influenced decisions taken at the party's conventions, Mr Massaquoio allowed the communities to freely choose their parliamentary representatives during the NPP's primary.

He wants the empowerment of rural dwellers to be the hallmark of his administration, as a way of combating poverty.

"I want to give Liberia back to Liberians" is his motto, implying a vision of empowering citizens to take charge of the economy.

VARNEY SHERMAN

Varney Sherman, a corporate lawyer from western Grand Cape Mount County on the border with Sierra Leone, is credited with providing sound legal services for leading companies and prominent individuals.

Mr Sherman is from the Liberia Action Party, the party of Transitional Head of State Gyude Bryant.

When Mr Bryant assumed the responsibility in 2003, Mr Sherman was his legal adviser, but he has since relinquished the portfolio.

Mr Sherman sprang to the defence of four Channel 4 journalists who had been charged with espionage by the government of ex-president Charles Taylor in August 2000 when the journalists entered Liberia with a pre-written script the authorities were unhappy with.

Mr Sherman is from the Vai ethnic group.

He says people who have reached retirement age and those who supported directly or indirectly the just-ended war in Liberia should forget about the presidency and leave it for people like himself.

Mr Sherman's optimism and dream for the nation's highest seat is reflected on billboards on which ahead of the election, he and his running mate are proclaimed president and vice president of Liberia.

He says he wishes to end the culture of impunity in Liberia and take Liberia into the community of nations. .

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4309302.stm>

Published: 2005/10/04 16:42:53 GMT

© BBC MMV