

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**  
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Tuesday, 29 November 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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# As my hands were cut 8 men were killed and 5 mutilated

By Betty Milton

**L**ed in evidence by Mohammed Bangura of the Prosecution team at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, witness TFI-010 stated that before his two hands were cut off, five men were shot dead while

five had their heads decapitated.

The 36-year-old man who was residing in Falcon Street in the Eastern part of Freetown recalled that on 6th of January 1999 the rebels attacked them as they had had rumours that they had

entered the town. He said as they had stayed indoors for the past six days, some of them decided to go in search of foodstuff at Mabela. On their way home the witness said, they met the rebels had mounted a checkpoint around Ferry Junction where they met some of their civilians counterparts sitting on the ground.

He went on to state that they too were ordered to sit on the ground. Later after they were released as he went home the witness said, five rebels went to the house where he was residing and one of the rebels asked that the house be burnt down

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which they did.

They went to seek refuge in a house belonging to one Abass. At this point, a Commander of a rebel group ordered that they should be taken to a junction. The witness who was testifying in Krio said he was the first in the line of both old and young men, women and children. Later the witness said the Commander gave orders that they should take all the young men to the main road. They were about 24 in number. The Commander,

he noted, had a pistol while five of them had guns, one was holding an axe and another a cutlass. "They brought a big log and were ordered by their Commander to put our hands on it for it to be cut off". He told of how one of the men pleaded for his hand not to be cut but he was shot dead by the Commander. Seven men who also pleaded for their hands not to be cut were also shot dead. Continuing the witness said, "The Commander said he was

no longer going to waste his bullets on us then he commanded his boys to chop off the heads of six more helpless civilians which they did. He ordered them also to chop off our hands. A small boy came with his cutlass and gave me a heavy blow with it on my left hand twice. The Commander then said he was not ready to do his job and so he took the cutlass and asked me to put my hand on the log and he cut it off". Trial continues today.

# SCOOP

Tomorrow's News Today!!!

Vol. 1 No. 41

Tuesday November 29, 2005

Le 1000

# Pa Kabbah to face Special Court

By **Albert Baron Ansu**

In the ongoing Special Court trial involving Kamajoh trio: Chief Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofonah and Alieu Kondewa- Co-ordinator, Director of War and High priest respectively, president Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah will have to face the Special Court as a witness.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006, the President by the urgings of the Defence Team will have to give testimony about

political divide. Here the name of lawyer Charles Margai is prominent as the leading Defence Council battling to position the innocence of the three Kamajoh Chieftains.

Not going into the legal jig-saw of the trial, lest we prejudice issues, we can however question the political implications surrounding the case.

Kamajoh violations that constitute war crimes. It is unclear as to what will be the President's response to any subpoena orders from the Special Court that

will dock and subject him to cross-examinations by counsels on the other side of the

Politically, Margai and the President are uneasy-bedfellows. The Special Court was approved by the UN after an application from President Kabbah. The president said it was a move to fight impunity. Norman, being the first

accused; then Deputy Minister of Defence, is seen by his supporters as a man given away on political grounds; his popularity with the Kamajohs- over forty thousand was not comforting to the President's ego and choice of successor. The fact that Norman (whilst in the custody of the Special Court) bolted for the Presidential race of the SLPP confirms the speculation that he

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President Kabbah

# Pa Kabbah to face Special court

From front Page

harboured ambition to lead —encouraged by the feeling that he is a hero of a sort in Mende land. This ambition was killed before it became full blown. The effect in no small measure accounts for the splinter in the ruling party.

Those who are at sympathy with the Kamajoh indicted trio see the ungratefulness on the part of the government insofar as the Kamajohs who received material and other support from Kabbah fought alongside pro-government forces to restore Kabbah and his government in 1997 through the end of the war.

Kabbah had always fired

back that 'no sacred cows for war crimes... that supporting the Kamajohs did not officially permit inordinate brutality and mayhem the faction is answering.

And it can just be of interest how Kabbah will honour the Special Court— he has midwived, if you like, by going public to testify as Defence Minister. If he treats the court with contempt what else can people say about the Special Court? Maybe the Defence team will cry sabotage! And the legitimacy of the court will be questioned. And former President Joe Demby, Peter Penfold the former British High Commissioner —all witnesses —as the

President will show the difference or follow the President's betrayal of the proceedings of the UN backed Court. Where do we go? It has been established in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone (at the time Norman's counsels took his claim that the Special court has no legality) that the Special Court supersedes all other courts. Is President Kabbah bigger than them all? We ask because we are reliably informed that he was shocked by his subpoena to appear January 17<sup>th</sup> and he is said to have said in shock that that was not a part of the agreement. Which agreement? We are waiting keenly.

# Christian Monitor

29 November 2005

## **For Security Reasons:**

### **Special Court Builds Heliport**

Exclusive

A brand new heliport is being built at the Special Court premises in New England, the Christian Monitor can reveal.

According to our investigations, although the court has been using UNAMSIL's facility at Aberdeen, the senior management of the court thought it prudent to construct a helipad within the court's precincts to make reception of visiting missions less burdensome, reinforcement of the military guard force if required and also facilitate evacuation of the Special Court staff and indictees quickly in an emergency.

While these factors are convincing, observers of the Court believe that constructing a heliport when there is a suitable alternative at Aberdeen is not cost effective at a time when the Court is begging for money from donors to prolong its life.

The cost of the heliport is not known.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone to try those responsible for crimes against humanity during the civil war in Sierra Leone.

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/hot\\_news\\_3](http://www.cocorioko.com/hot_news_3)

In snap West African tour

### **ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF TO HOLD TALKS WITH SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT ON CHARLES TAYLOR**

Tuesday November 29, 2005

Even with her inauguration due well into January and an elections fraud case filed by her rival still pending, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will this week demonstrate her urgency to get Liberia back on good footing as she embarks on a snap West African tour to acquaint other leaders of the subregion with the new dispensation in Liberia.

A release sent to COCORIOKO by her team announced that Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf will use the trip to introduce herself officially to the Presidents of the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria and to tell them that Liberia had returned to stability.

Joe Kollie, a Liberian resident in Somerset, New Jersey, who spoke with COCORIOKO on the new Liberian President, told this paper that Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf's trip was laudable because it will start the ball rolling for the fence-mending exercise that Liberia direly requires with her neighbours.

Mr. Kollie said that the key to Liberia's stability is peace with her neighbours. "This is a priority. Stability cannot fully return to Liberia if the present state of affairs continues between her and the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Guinea. We need to make peace with our neighbours and ensure secure borders and no more threats of invasions from other countries," he intimated.

Kollie enthused that Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf has already started utilizing her immense experience and leadership skills. He said that the President-Elect was aware that there was no way prospective investors and donors will have confidence in Liberia if she was not at peace with neighbours and still faced threats of foreign invasion. He also speculated that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf may also be undertaking the trip to make it clear to her African neighbours that she needed bilateral cooperation with them for her to succeed in returning Liberia to her old glory.

When Mrs. Sirleaf lands in Freetown, one topic that she would not avoid discussing with the Sierra Leone government is the extradition of former President, Charles Taylor, from Nigeria to Sierra Leone to face war crimes charges before the UN-supported Special Court.

Mrs. Sirleaf holds the key to Taylor's extradition, given the fact that Nigeria's President, Olusegun Obasanjo, has repeatedly indicated that he will only hand Taylor over to a constitutionally-elected government in Liberia and not to any third parties. However, Mrs. Sirleaf herself is not all that willing to have Taylor prosecuted because it is learnt

that she feels that it will affect the stability of Liberia in the long run. The former Liberian rebel leader, who is accused of importing war to Sierra Leone and financing the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), still has tremendous support in Liberia among former fighters, rebel commanders and politicians, though this support is underground. Mrs. Sirleaf also financed Charles Taylor's armed invasion of Liberia to get former dictator Samuel K. Doe

However, though the Taylor issue is thorny, it does not appear like it will affect relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone, if Taylor is not extradicted. This is because even the Sierra Leonean leader, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah seems to have acquiesced to Nigerian President Obasanjo's position. Months ago, Kabbah backed Obasanjo's stance that the Nigerian leader's commitment to grant amnesty to Taylor as a way of bringing peace to Liberia was paramount.

In fact, the government of Sierra Leone is not making any aggressive moves to convince Nigeria to extradict Taylor. The anti-Taylor passion is most often found among the ordinary man in the streets of Sierra Leone and among political activists. Mrs. Sirleaf may face more pressures on the Taylor extradition from America or international donor agencies than from the Sierra Leone government.



## Thisday Online

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=34502>

### **NGOs Forum Demands Arrest of Charles Taylor**

By Akinwale Akintunde, 11.28.2005

Participants at the NGOs forum attending the 38th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights have demanded that Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo arrest and surrenders Charles Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

According to the participants which include members of the Campaign Against Impunity, the African Commission has a responsibility to address the broad issue of impunity in Africa by asking Nigeria to comply with the request for Charles Taylor, to be brought to justice for the allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity levelled against him.

In November 2005 a Federal High Court in Nigeria threw out the Federal Government's objections to the legal proceedings to review Charles Taylor's asylum in Nigeria. Two victims, Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele, whose limbs were amputated during the conflict in Sierra Leone, filed the case.

On November 11, 2005, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1638, empowering the United Nation Mission in Liberia: "to apprehend and detain former President Charles Taylor in the event of his return to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to Sierra Leone for prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Liberian Government, the Sierra Leonean Government and the Council fully informed". Campaign Against Impunity (a coalition involving Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Open Society Justice Initiatives and over 300 African civil society organizations) has consistently asked the African Commission to take a stand in support of thousands of Africans especially women and children who are victims of Taylor's alleged crimes, in accordance with its mandates under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Coalition has insisted that victims, their relatives and the society at large all have a vital interest in having individuals responsible for human rights abuses brought to justice, knowing the truth about past abuses, and receiving reparation for these violations. According to Kolawole Olaniyan Africa program Director at Amnesty International, "bringing perpetrators to justice also sends a clear message that violations of human rights will not be tolerated and that those who commit such acts will be held fully accountable."

"The civil society organizations at this NGO's forum believe that bringing Charles Taylor to justice is essential in establishing the rule of law and to deter future human rights abuses in the West African sub-region. The fight against grave human rights violations such as those committed against the people of West Africa can only be won if this problem is tackled effectively" said Thompson Adebayo, the Executive Director of Liberia Watch for Human Rights.

Voke Ighorodje, Coordinator of the Nigeria Coalition on International Criminal Court (NCICC) said during the NGOs forum that “the African Commission must join the fight against impunity and call on the Nigerian government to promptly surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for trial in accordance with international standards of fair trial or to prosecute him in Nigerian courts”.

It should be noted that the Prosecutor to the special court in Freetown indicted Charles Taylor on March 3, 2003. The indictment was unsealed on June 4, 2003. Official copies of the indictment and warrant of arrest were delivered to the Nigerian government by the Court’s Registry on November 27, 2003, and the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) issued a “Red Notice” for Charles Taylor on December 3, 2003.

The efforts to comply with the rule of law by surrendering Charles Taylor to the special court have been resisted by the Nigeria government and the African Union through the commendation issue in 2004. This has raised serious international concerns on the commitment of African leaders to the process of combating in Africa.

# AngolaPress

Luanda - Tuesday, November 29, 2005 - 9:02:12 AM

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## Hissene Habre: Senegal's albatross, litmus test for Africa

Dakar, Senegal, 11/28 - When he fled his home country Chad in 1990 to Senegal on self-imposed exile after he was toppled, ex-President Hissene Habre probably never imagined that he would one day become the subject of an international extradition saga now playing out between his host nation and a far away European country, Belgium.

His largely semi-desert country, rich in gold and uranium, but which joined the league of oil-producing states in 2003, is Africa's fifth-largest nation, notorious for internal conflict.

Poverty is so pronounced in the former French colony of less than 10 million people, which has overtaken its more richer and populous neighbours Nigeria and Cameroon, on the latest corruption chart of the Berlin-based Transparency International.

Chad's post-independence history is one of instability and violence, accentuated by tension between the mainly Arab-Muslim north and the predominantly Christian and animist south.

Northern disaffection combined with severe drought to undermine the regime of the first President Ngarta Tombalbaye, a southern Christian, who was eventually slain in a coup led by fellow southerner, Felix Malloum, in 1975.

Malloum was himself replaced by a Libyan-backed northerner, Goukouni Oueddei, in 1979. But the continued instability threw up Habre, then a Defence Minister and a northerner, who became leader of the main rebel group.

With French support, Habre, now 63, seized power in 1982, forcing Oueddei to flee to the north of the country where he formed a rival government.

But Habre was himself toppled by the Libyan-backed Idriss Deby in 1990, and thus began the long exile in Senegal for the former soldier, whose one-party regime has been accused of widespread atrocities, with the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) nicknaming him "Africa's Pinochet," after the Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, who is still struggling with his own demons of misrule from the 1970s.

Habre stands accused of launching campaigns against ethnic groups in the south (1984), and against the Hadjerai (1987) and the Zaghawa (1989), killing and arresting leaders and extended families and even destroying whole communities when he perceived that the groups were hostile to his regime.

The exact number of his victims is unknown but in 1992 the Chadian Truth Commission said Habre's government was responsible for some 40,000 political murders and systematic torture, charges he has denied.

Political historians recall that the US and France supported Habre as a bulwark against the West's former enemy, Mouammar Kadhafi of Libya, Chad's northern neighbour.

Under President Ronald Reagan, for instance, Habre was said to have enjoyed massive military aid and wide ranging support, which he used to brutalise the opposition.

But since Habre's fall, Chadians have been seeking to bring him to justice with the Chadian Association of Victims of Political Repression and Crime (AVCRP), compiling a dossier on his victims.

The Truth Commission's call for his "immediate prosecution" gave fillip to ceaseless campaigns by local and international human rights groups.

But with many high ranking officials of the current Deby government involved in Habre's alleged crimes, the N'djamena regime had failed to indict Habre or pursue his extradition from Senegal.

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It was Belgian judge Daniel Fransen of the Brussels district, who after an historic mission to Chad to investigate the atrocity charges, that issued an international warrant for Habre's arrest.

In response to the request for the extradition of Habre to Belgium for trial, Senegalese authorities arrested him 15 November and arraigned him before a Dakar Court, which ruled 25 November that it lacked the competence to handle the case.

But in less than 24 hours after that ruling, the Senegalese government, in what observers saw as "a panic political measure" borne out of apparent intense pressure from western countries, re-arrested the former Chadian leader.

He was given 48 hours to pack his belongings and was "placed at the disposal of the African Union (AU) chairman, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo," who is himself under pressure to handover former Liberian President Charles Taylor for trial at the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone on war crime charges.

It was not surprising that Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio had to overrule the "pack-and-go" controversial decision on Habre by the Interior Ministry.

But even Gadio's statement at a Sunday press conference did little to clarify the case, with one commentator saying the former Chadian "is being tossed up and down like a yoyo."

Gadio said Habre would be allowed to remain in Senegal until the African Union (AU) summit slated for 23-24 January in Khartoum, Sudan, decides his fate.

But the big question by many international relations experts is whether by this decision, President Abdoulaye Wade's government is not unwittingly surrendering Senegal's sovereignty to the continental organisation on a matter it could conveniently handle by relying on domestic judicial interpretation?

With the mountain of human rights violations against him, Habre has very few sympathisers, but he is not the first African former leader to be granted political asylum or to be accused of atrocities.

Jean-Bedel Bokasa, the self-proclaimed emperor of the Central Africa Republic, had received death sentences handed by the local judiciary in absentia before his death in exile in France in 1996.

Obasanjo, the AU chair, whom Senegal had wanted to refer the Habre case, has consistently resisted international pressure to hand over Taylor, citing the international accord reached for Nigeria to grant him asylum, and maintaining that Abuja could only surrender Taylor based on a request from an elected government in Liberia.

There are also precedents to the Belgian court's request. In 1998, a Spanish court had issued a warrant on Pinochet for his trial in Spain, while the former US-backed Chilean dictator was on medical trip in Britain.

After keeping him under house arrest for more than one year, the British authorities allowed Pinochet to return home, albeit on technical grounds that he was too ill to stand trial in Britain.

Still, legal proceedings were initiated against 90-year-old Pinochet back home in Chile, with the latest charges related to tax evasion from his multimillion dollar bank accounts in the US.

Also, it is recalled that a request by a Belgian court for the extradition and trial of US citizens in 2003, could not be enforced after Washington protested vehemently with threats of counter arrests of Belgian cabinet members.

Indeed, observers equally find it ironic that Brussels, whose Universal Jurisdiction laws permit the trial of foreign nationals in Belgium no matter where the crimes are committed, arm-twisted Rwanda, to ensure that Belgian Catholic priest Guy Theunis implicated in the 1994 genocide was not tried in the African country but in Belgium.

To be sure, Habre's case will serve as a big lesson to African leaders whether serving or out of office that they must be made to account for their actions, but this must be under the relevant laws following the due process.

Africa should not bow to foreign pressure in bringing its leaders to account. For now, the AU Constitutive Act has no provisions for dealing with a complicated case as Habre's, so African leaders should realise they would be making history in the way they decide the former Chadian leader's fate.