

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:**

Wednesday, 7 December 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248

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Unseating of AFRC regime – Pres Kabbah to explain

By Betty Milton
Seventy-seven witnesses have been lined up to testify in the defence of Chief Sam Hinga Norman at the Trial Chamber of the Special Court, which will commence on January 17, 2006.

Immediately to follow is President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah who has been tasked to explain the meeting held in Conakry by himself, Ministers and some Kamajors on how to unseat the AFRC regime. President Kabbah will also explain in his testimony to

the Court, his status within the State apparatus and in relation to the national army and military structure, as well as mobilization of the CDF as a defending force to restore democracy. Also in the summary of testimony, President Tejan Kabbah will also explain the

military and political modus operandi of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government in exile, coupled with the establishment, organisation, logistical support and promotion of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). The President during his
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Wednesday December 07, 2005

AWOKO NEWSPAPER

Page 2

Unseating of AFRC regime – Pres Kabbah to explain

From Front Page
testimony will also be speaking on the responsibility of implementing policy and strategy for prosecuting the war, and how he visited the Kamajors at Lungi Airport to plan the strategy for the war together with some of the Ministers, likewise, about arms and ammunition from Sandline International and the instructions given to General Maxwell Khobe on how the arms should be used. The defence would also be asking the President to explain about a letter from his office to "set up a committee to handle all policy matters relating to the National militia/CDF" to be chaired by the Vice President. Furthermore, President Kabbah will have to explain his nomination role of specific persons as regional

representatives. Lined up as the third witness is former Vice President Albert Joe Demby who will have to explain the Joint ECOMOG and CDF role in defending Sierra Leone and in particular the role of the CDF in the January 1999 invasion of Freetown. The former Vice President will also be asked to speak on his role as the representative of the government in exile in Sierra Leone and as conduit of information between the government in exile and the CDF, as well as logistical support networks to the CDF. The witness will also explain the recognition of the contribution of the CDF to democracy in Sierra

Leone after the signing of the Lome Peace Accord. Chief Norman's defence team will also lead the former Vice President to explain how the former was sent to the Sierra Leone – Liberia border to help organise the Kamajors' resistance as the only defence mechanism left with the SLPP government after the soldiers had staged the coup. Similarly too, Albert Joe Demby would explain how he and other Ministers would advise the Kamajors and General Khobe on the strategy of the war as well as how the War Council was formed and assigning certain functions to

certain individuals and it subsequently abolishment, coupled with how complaints were investigated and what happened to captured soldiers and rebels. Chief Norman has also

lined up former British High Commissioner Peter Penfold and former American ambassador John Hirsh to testify on his behalf. Included in the list also is Awoko's Editor, Kelvin

Lewis who has been tasked to speak about the relationship between the civilians and the Kamajors, and how the Kamajors were placed under ECOMOG as well as receiving arms from them.

Standard Times

7 December 2005

“Charles Taylor Must Face Special Court” -Septimus Kaikai

By Edward Marah

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Professor Septimus Moiwa Kaikai has stressed that the government of Sierra Leone want to see former Liberian President Charles Taylor face the Special Court for Sierra Leone to answer for war crimes committed against humanity during the country's decade long civil war.

The minister said that the special court was set up by the United Nations on the request of the government of Sierra Leone to try those alleged to have played major roles to the crimes against humanity in the country.

He noted that the former Liberian president Mr. Charles Taylor has been indicted for crimes against humanity and that they as a government want to see that justice is seen to be done.

He maintained that during the war a lot of atrocity were committed by the leaders of the conflict that he said needs to answer for their act committed.

He added that the government of Sierra Leone will continue to support the United Nations specially the Special Court to bring those responsible for atrocities committed in the country be brought to book.

Meanwhile the former Liberian President Charles Taylor who is currently in Nigerian in exile have stated over and again that he will not face the UN back Special Court for Sierra Leone on the grounds that its an illegal constitute court that, cannot tried him.

BOMBSHELL! **Kabbah For Special Court**

The lead Counsel for Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie has cited the Head of State,

Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as the first and principal witness to be called upon to testify to

the Special Court when the Defence team opens their defence on 17th January 2006.

The witness list which was leaked to this press, is made up of

seventy seven people including former Vice-President Dr. Albert Joe Demby, former US am-

bassador to Sierra Leone Mr. John Hirsch and former British High Commissioner
Contd. page 2

Kabbah For Special Court

From front page

P.C. Komrabai Peter Penfold.

BIG BIG NAMES

Bu-Buakei Jabbie's witness list of dignitaries also include the former UNDP Resident Representative to this country, former ECOMOG top brass Major General Victor Malu and Major General Abu Wan Mohamed.

A host of former 'kamajor' militia and Civil Defence Force (CDF) commanders and fighters are also expected to testify on behalf of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

EDITOR AS WITNESS

Journalist Kelvin Lewis, who is Managing Editor of Awoko newspaper is the seventy seventh and very last on Bu-Buakei Jabbie's long witness list. Legal experts told The Exclusive that Chief Hinga Norman and his lawyers may be trying to rope in top level personalities who held secret meetings with the then kamajor High Command on how best to prosecute the rebel war and how to provide Chief Norman and his fighters with the needed logistics.

SIERRA LEONE PRESS REVIEW

Tuesday 6 December 2005

UNAMSIL

The Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General, Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago has disclosed that through UNAMSIL's Trust Fund, the mission has implemented 129 projects in Sierra Leone. The projects implemented include the construction of roads, bridges, court barriers, schools and government offices that were destroyed during the war.

SPECIAL COURT

In a 25-page document released yesterday, Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie, the lead counsel for former Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Sam Hinga Norman, has named President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as one of the key witnesses to testify at the Special Court when the defence team opens on 17 January 2006.

There are 77 witnesses on the list. Among those to testify are former Vice President Joe Demby, former US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, John Hirsh and former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, former ECOMOG Commanders, Gens. Victor Malu and Abu Wan Mohamed, including journalists Lans Gberie and Kelvin Lewis, who is both VOA and RFI Correspondent.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sierra Leone has been commended by a local NGO, National Accountability Group (NAG) for its demonstration of goodwill and commitment to fight corruption by joining the first 30 countries in the UN to fight against corruption for signing and ratifying the UN Convention against corruption.

The Disabled from across the country have presented a six-page document to the Speaker of Parliament, Edmond Cowan by calling on government to fully integrate disabled people into mainstream society as perquisite of the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1992.



Extended role for Irish troops in Africa

December 06, 2005 19:20

The Government today approved an extended role for Irish troops on a UN mission in Africa, to help deal with 'a serious security crisis which could be likely'.

The troops are presently deployed in Liberia but under the terms of the new arrangement, which still has to be approved by the Dáil, they would be deployable to neighbouring Sierra Leone as part of a UN mission.

They would provide security for the Special Court in the capital, Freetown, and evacuate officials in the event of a security crisis.

The Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea, says this could develop when verdicts are handed down next month.

The Irish troops are also to be empowered to apprehend and detain former Liberian President Charles Taylor if he returns to Liberia.

Mr Taylor has been indicted by the Freetown Court but is currently in exile in Nigeria.

Cabinet also today approved the continued deployment of Irish peacekeeping troops in Liberia, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for a further 12 months.

There are 427 troops in Liberia at the moment, and 56 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This page : <http://www.rte.ie/news/2005/1206/defence>

IOL Breaking News - (printer friendly version)

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Troops may join Sierra Leone court mission

06/12/2005 - 18:37:50

Irish soldiers may be deployed to Sierra Leone as part of a United Nations mission to secure a court trying people charged with war crimes, it emerged today.

Defence Minister Willie O'Dea said the Cabinet had granted permission for members of the Defence Force serving in Liberia to be deployed to Sierra Leone as part of the extension of the mission.

But the Dáil also has to grant permission for the expansion of the United Nations Mission in Liberia before Ireland can participate in the expanded mission.

The extended role of the troops on the UNMIL would include providing security detail for a Special Court in Freetown and to evacuate officials in the event of a serious security crisis.

The Freetown Court was established by the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone to try those charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's Civil War between 1991-2002.

Six trial judges – including one Irish judge and five appeal judges – preside over the court.

"13 people have been indicted by the Court already, nine are in custody in Freetown, two are now deceased and one is currently missing presumed dead," Mr O'Dea said.

"The remaining indictee is the former President of Liberia Charles Taylor who has been in exile in Nigeria since August 2003. The possible extradition of Charles Taylor would serve to heighten tensions in the area and would have a serious impact on the security situation.

"As part of the UN Resolution approved today by my Cabinet colleagues and I, the Irish troops' role in Liberia has been extended to include the apprehension, detention and transfer to the Special Court in Freetown in the event of Charles Taylor's return to Liberia."

Mr O'Dea said the security situation in Freetown was likely to become more volatile when verdicts in the case of some detainees are handed down in January 2006 – the proposed start date for the troops' involvement.

Mr O'Dea said the Cabinet also approved the continued deployment of the Defence Forces for peacekeeping service in Liberia, Bosnia and Herzegovina for another 12 months.

Around 427 Irish troops are involved in the UN Mission in Liberia, which commenced in December 2003.

Around 56 members of Ireland's Defence Force are currently serving in

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Cote d'Ivoire: Ivory Coast rebels want constitution suspended

ABIDJAN, Dec 6 (AFP) - Rebels who control most of the north of Ivory Coast have called for the west African country's constitution to be suspended because it gave too much power to President Laurent Gbagbo.

"The constitution gives so many powers to the president of the republic that if it remains in force the head of state will have the means to hold up the work of the government," the rebels said in a statement given to international mediators trying to steer Ivory Coast out of its current crisis and obtained by AFP on Tuesday.

These powers, the rebels said, including that of sacking newly-appointed interim Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, who is also the governor of the Central Bank of West African States.

The statement suggested a temporary constitution should be drawn up by the United Nations Security Council.

Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer and once one of Africa's most prosperous states, has been split since fighting broke out in 2002 between Gbagbo's government and rebels.

mjp/ck/afm/smc

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Cote d'Ivoire: West African bloc haals choice of Ivorian PM

ABUJA, Dec 6 (AFP) - The west African bloc expressed its satisfaction Tuesday with the appointment of Charles Konan Banny as a transitional prime minister to lead the war-ravaged Ivory Coast into elections next year.

In an official statement released in Abuja, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) urged "all the Ivorian parties involved to support and cooperate fully with the new prime minister to ensure rapid formation of the government."

"ECOWAS considers that his appointment is a significant achievement in the march towards veritable peace, stability and national reconciliation and should be supported by all," it said.

It congratulated all political stakeholders in Ivory Coast on putting aside their differences to accept Banny as a leader tasked with reunifying the country and organising national elections.

Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Thabo Mbeki of South African went to Abidjan on Sunday on behalf of the African Union to announce Banny as their choice for the role.

They said Banny, 63, would be given broad powers specified by the United Nations Security Council, including financial and human resources, control over security and defense forces and oversight of the electoral process.

Banny, who is governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), would not himself be eligible to run in the election to replace President Laurent Gbagbo.

Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer and once one of Africa's most prosperous states, has been split since fighting broke out in 2002 between President Laurent Gbagbo's government and rebels who control the north of the country.

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Cote'd'ivoire: "No War, No Peace And the Way Forward"

FrontPageAfrica (Monrovia)

ANALYSIS

December 5, 2005

Posted to the web December 6, 2005

By Emmanuel Abalo

The intractable climate of 'No Peace, No War' in the West African country of Cote d'Ivoire, formerly known as the Ivory Coast continues to challenge peace efforts of the African Union and the United Nations and prolong economic and political instability in the subregion..

The once relatively stable nation often referred to as the "Paris" of Africa remains divided between the northerners who are predominantly of foreign origin and Islamists and the southerners who are predominantly Christians.

The Ivorian crisis finds its genesis in an attempted 1999 military coup which led to national elections in which President Laurent Gbagbo emerged as the winner and a second attempted coup by rebels in 2002 - all of which have failed to address the gripe of the rebels.

In 2002, the rebels known as the New Forces Movement launched their rebellion and quickly took control of the northern half of the country which also included the cocoa belt. Cote d'Ivoire is the world largest cocoa producer. Interestingly, the rebels did not trumpet economic disparity as the centerpiece of their rebellion. Instead, they have complained and maintain that they have been discriminated against as immigrants, and relegated to "second class" citizens and denied political representation through the promulgation of laws by the 'Christian' south dominated government of President Gbagbo

And so the rebels say to address their concerns, they are demanding the resignation of President Gbagbo and new elections held and the end to discrimination against northerners. They rebels are also calling for a reintegration of exiles into the Ivorian army and the premiership in government.

The Ivorian President is countering the rebels demand by demanding that they surrender their weapons and areas they occupy. International peace efforts by the former colonial power France and the African Union have so far failed to broker a deal to end the impasse resulting into a fragile, but tense truce.

In November, 2004, Ivorian government troops violated the 18-month ceasefire by launching an attack on rebels' positions. There were dozens of deaths among civilians and the French military which is manning a buffer zone between the belligerents suffered nine casualties. The French military swiftly retaliated against the Ivorian military and destroyed that country's air force. The French government, however, not wanting to become a victim of "mission creep" and not wanting to be perceived as perpetuating its colonial influence ceded its peace making role to an active African Union solution which has the blessings of the United Nations. France has about 4,000 troops in Cote d'Ivoire charged to enforce the uneasy peace between the government and rebel forces.

The danger is that both the Ivorian government and its supporters and the rebels led by Mr. Guillaume Soro are digging in along political, ethnic lines and religious lines. Hate speech against the rebels and immigrants and media reports supportive of President Gbagbo continue to fan tensions. The rebels in their area of control are reported to be utilizing cocoa resources to purchase arms and ammunitions, engaging in human rights abuses and benefitting personally from the stalemate. According to a recent U.N. team of expert report, "cocoa plays an important role in providing funds for the off-budget and extrabudgetary military procurement efforts of the Government.."

Two years since 2003 after the Linas-Marcoussis Accord was signed by the Ivorian government and rebels in France aimed at settling the internal conflict, a resolution remains elusive. The Peace Accord addresses the issues of citizenship, Presidential eligibility and land ownership

At a U.S House Committee Congressional hearing in February, 2003 on the Ivorian situation, chaired by Republican Representative Ed Royce, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr. Walter Kansteiner a panelist asserted the U.S. Administration's position when he said, " we have made clear to all of Cote d'Ivoire's neighbors that we cannot tolerate interference to further destabilize the country. We, and others, have made this point with particular emphasis to President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and President Charles Taylor of Liberia. While both presidents deny any connection with or support for the rebels, circumstantial evidence suggests that there is ample reason to remain concerned and vigilant "

Burkina Faso and the then Charles Taylor government have been accused by the Ivorian government of "supporting, protecting and training armed opposition groups, especially the rebels.

Former President Taylor was forced out of power by advancing Liberian rebels in August, 2003, granted and remains in exile in Calabar, Nigeria and under criminal indictment by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

There is enough blame to go around in Cote d'Ivoire. However, the argument can be made that both rebel northerners and the government may have legitimate cases that need to be addressed through constitutional and peaceful means in order to end the division of the country and resolve the political impasse. But the use of force of arms by either side to gain an advantage at the "political table" is totally unacceptable and a violation of international law.

Cote'd'ivoire remains a "magnet" for mercenaries looking for "work" in the sub region and the continued impasse directly threaten the fragile peace which has obtained in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In late October, 2005, the Washington DC based Human Rights Watch in a release issued said, " Since September, Ivorian army officers and Liberian former commanders have been conducting a recruitment drive seeking ex-combatants in Liberian towns and villages bordering Côte d'Ivoire.

The Ivorian government is bolstering its military manpower by recruiting children who fought in Liberia's brutal civil war," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch. "The international community must do all it can to ensure that these children are demobilized and that their recruiters are prosecuted."

In October, Human Rights Watch interviewed 19 Liberian ex-combatants; including three children aged 13 to 17. All of them had been approached by Liberian and Ivorian recruiters to join a fighting "mission" on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire's government. Several of those interviewed, including the children, said that they themselves were involved in the recruitment of additional fighters "

A striking cross border threat is the fact that an ethnic conflagration may erupt on the Liberian-Ivorian border pitting the Ivorian Guere tribe and their Liberian cousins squarely behind President Gbagbo in a battle against the Yacoubas who live on both sides of the borders and are reported to be sympathetic to the rebels.

There is also large Burkinabe poverty ridden immigrant population in Cote d'Ivoire who has complained of been harassed and subjected to intimidation and violence by Ivorians in the south who accuse the Burkinabes of supporting the rebels. Burkinabes from the homeland could come to the defense of their fellow nationals in the instance of an all out war between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Religious fanatics' and terrorists intent on attacking western interests and their supporters may also gravitate to this West African hotspot, establish a foothold and foment trouble. After all, a stable West African sub region is strategically important for continued economic, military, social and political growth and dynamism.

The Way Forward

The solution here then is the full implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution backed by the African Union. A recently passed U.N. Security Council resolution supported allowing President Gbagbo up to 12 additional months in power, after presidential elections scheduled for October, 2005 were deemed impossible by the United Nations. Although peace mediation efforts continue by an African head of state delegation, the international community must insist and make clear that the post of Prime Minister is filled by a credible Ivorian candidate acceptable to all sides in order to facilitate a movement to a national resolution. According to latest news reports, an Ivorian financial heavyweight Mr. Konan Banny, who has been serving as the governor of the Central Bank of West African States, has been named as interim Prime Minister. Diplomatic and political sources say the new interim Prime Minister has a reputation for being "competent and strong willed." His mandate will be to disarm the rebels and organize and conduct national elections paving the way for a government to acceptable to all sides.

The government and rebels and their supporters must also be put on notice by the United Nations and the African Union that they will be indicted and prosecuted for war crimes, human rights abuses and violation of international law if they persist along this path. We also call on ordinary Ivories to begin collecting and preserving evidences of abuses by any side for potential prosecutorial criminal and civil actions against those responsible.

Additionally, we urge the imposition of economic and travel sanctions now against those stifling the resolution of the Ivorian crisis.

Never again should any African warlord or insurgent group be rewarded with the political power except through the constitutional and democratic process undertaken through free and fair elections sanctioned by the international community.

.Emmanuel Abalo is an exiled Liberian journalist, media and human rights activist. He is the former Acting President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL). Mr. Abalo presently resides in Pennsylvania, USA and works as an analyst with CITIGROUP, North America.

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Hussein refuses to appear in court

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) -- The start of Saddam Hussein's trial was delayed for more than an hour Wednesday morning as the deposed Iraqi leader refused to appear, a court official said.

On Tuesday, Hussein threatened not to return to the courtroom after five witnesses testified about brutalities they experienced during a government crackdown 23 years ago.

"I will not be in a court without justice. Go to hell, all you agents of America," Hussein told the court.

Wednesday morning, Hussein's lawyers conferred with the trial's judges about his threat, CNN's Aneesh Raman reported from Baghdad.

Hussein then met with his lawyers, Raman said. It was not clear whether Hussein had the option not to appear in court or whether he could be compelled to appear.

Hussein and seven other defendants are on trial in connection with the deaths of more than 140 men in Dujail, a town north of Baghdad. The 1982 killings were considered retribution for a failed assassination attempt on Hussein.

Tuesday's witnesses -- three men and two women sitting behind a curtain with voices disguised by a modulator -- described beatings, electrocutions and deaths in 1982.

Hussein and the Baath Party were firmly in power then, and the country was at war with Iran, a crucial period in the nation's history.

Fears of retribution by Saddam loyalists forced the court to shield the witnesses' identities. Witnesses are allowed to have their voices altered to hide their identities from the defendants, media and people in the visitors' gallery -- but not from the judges or attorneys.

Breaking down in tears, a woman identified only as "Witness A" described mistreatment by Iraqi intelligence officers while at Abu Ghraib prison 20 years ago and then captivity in the desert. She said she was beaten with cables and given electric shocks.

She also described the torture of family members and other prisoners and the destruction of homes and orchards. ([Watch report of woman's dramatic testimony -- 1:24](#))

After her came an older woman identified as "Witness B" and a man identified as "Witness C."

The latter testified that he was 12 when he was rounded up in 1982. He said that he was taken first to Baath Party headquarters in Dujail, then to Baghdad, where he was tortured and sent to Abu Ghraib jail. He eventually was taken to a desert prison camp, where he spent four years before being returned to Dujail. ([Watch a roundup of the emotional testimony and Hussein's angry response -- 3:19](#))

Asked which of the defendants he held accountable, Witness C testified that he saw defendant Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Hussein's half brother, at the Baath headquarters in Dujail.

During his cross-examination of Witness C, al-Tikriti acknowledged that he was at Baath headquarters but recalled a different encounter.

"Don't you remember? I was there. I kissed 60 men. I shook their hands, and I set them free," al-Tikriti said.

Defense attorneys questioned the accuracy of Witness C's childhood recollections.

A man testifying as "Witness D" said that he hasn't seen his son since the 16-year-old was whisked away in 1982.

The man said that after Hussein's ouster, papers were discovered indicating his son had died.

The defense pounced on this detail, questioning its authenticity.

"Witness E" also described abuse that followed the Dujail roundup.

More subdued session

Tuesday's nine-hour session was more controlled than Monday's chaotic proceeding, which was punctuated by Hussein's outbursts. Chief Judge Rizgar Mohammed Amin, in charge of the proceeding, attempted to keep the unnamed witnesses on point.

At the end of the day, Hussein complained that he had been wearing the same shirt and underwear for three days. He said he's tired and indicated that he isn't inclined to carry on Wednesday -- when two more witnesses are scheduled to testify.

The ex-dictator said the United States wants to execute him and finish off what he called the theater of Saddam Hussein.

He also said he wanted to know why he and the other defendants were not asked whether they had been tortured.

More hiccups came in the form of technical glitches during the day's proceedings.

Defense lawyers complained during Witness A's testimony that the equipment disguising her voice made it difficult to understand her, which prompted the judge to order that her voice modulator be turned off.

During Witness B's testimony, the judge shut off the modulation system because he thought it wasn't operating properly. But in shutting it off, all feeds from the courtroom were cut as well.

CNN's Aneesh Raman and Nic Robertson contributed to this report.

Find this article at:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/12/07/saddam.hussein.trial/index.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.