

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



A 1915-vintage steam engine in the National Railway Museum in Cline Town. See today's *'Special Court Supplement'*

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 at:

Monday, 16 July 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Monday, 16 July 2007

World Justice Day tomorrow

BY TALLEYRAND

Tomorrow on 17th July 2007 will mark the ninth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statutes by the International Criminal Court, ICC.

As part of the celebrations to mark the day designated as "World Justice Day" a local human rights advocacy group in Sierra Leone, Manifesto '99 in part-

nership with No Peace Without Justice, an international NGO working on accountability issues in the world will organize a symposium on the theme "Complementarity and the Impunity Gap". The theme focuses on the role of non-judicial, quasi-judicial and neo-traditional mechanisms.

Coming a day after the Special Court for Sierra Leone would hold its first

sentencing hearing, this year's WJD celebrations will add significance to the process.

The occasion will be held at the British Council Hall on Tower Hill at 10am and is expected to be attended by senior representatives of the Special Court for Sierra Leone such as Mr. Bankole Thompson who will deliver the keynote address.

New York Times

Sunday, 15 July 2007

Life Shrinks for a Former Liberian Leader Now on Trial

By MARLISE SIMONS

THE HAGUE — Sixteen months after his life of power and luxury ended in an abrupt arrest, Charles G. Taylor, warlord and former president of Liberia, is living in a new cellblock on the grounds of the Men's Penitentiary near The Hague.

Mr. Taylor lives in a cell that looks much like this one at a penitentiary at The Hague. He is allowed to use another cell for his legal paperwork.

Once known for his fine white suits, a swaggering style and plentiful weapons financed by trading timber and diamonds, Mr. Taylor now cooks his own food, does his dishes, reads newspapers and receives prison-issued pocket money. He is allowed to spend two hours in the yard and to work out in a gym.

He is the first African head of state to stand trial on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. If he is convicted, human rights groups say they hope that his fate could signal an end to impunity for violent dictators in Africa.

Since his trial began in June, prosecutors of the Special Court for Sierra Leone have produced about 40,000 pages to document what they call Mr. Taylor's drive for power and its accompanying atrocities, orchestrated from Liberia while he was backing forces in Sierra Leone's civil war. An estimated 200,000 people were killed or maimed in the fighting in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002.

Other crimes he is accused of in Liberia — where several hundred thousand more people died while he led a rebel army, and after he became president in 1997 — are not within the mandate of this court.

Mr. Taylor theatrically fired his lawyer on the opening day of his trial. Since then he has been interviewing several replacement candidates and working on his defense. Herman von Hebel, the court administrator, said Mr. Taylor had two cells, "one where he sleeps and one where he keeps his paperwork." He has access to a computer, a television and a DVD player.

But after a life of mixing with presidents, rebels, diplomats, smugglers and a permanent coterie of aides, Mr. Taylor is feeling very isolated, said Karim Khan, his former lawyer.

Set within the high-security compound of the largest prison in the Netherlands, with close to 800 inmates, a cellblock for international prisoners was recently built for the International Criminal Court. There, Mr. Taylor has only one fellow inmate: a Congolese militia commander, Thomas Lubanga. "They eat together, they share the common sitting room," said Marc Dubuisson, who oversees the prison administration.

The two inmates are also accused of carrying out a particular type of horror. According to prosecutors, both men have used thousands of child soldiers as their henchmen and indoctrinated and drugged pubescent boys to become killers and warrior-butchers who were ordered to chop off civilians' hands, arms or other body parts. Girls were kept in the boys' camps as cooks and sex slaves, prosecutors say.

Court officials said they did not know if the two inmates discussed such topics. Mr. Lubanga, who will be tried by the International Criminal Court here for commandeering child soldiers in the Congo, speaks French, while Mr. Taylor speaks English. “We’re arranging for some language courses, and also for computer lessons,” Mr. Dubuisson said. “They are not convicted; we have to treat them with dignity.”

The Sierra Leone court pays \$700 a day for Mr. Taylor’s confinement. Nearby, in the same compound but out of reach, is the older detention center with close to 50 Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian inmates of the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Taylor, a man used to the powers of a wealthy warlord, has been successful at promoting his interests even in captivity. He has complained about the size and budget of his defense team, paid for by the court. Although a report by investigators for the court has put his fortune, amassed through legal and illegal activities from timber and diamond trading and other business interests, at around \$450 million, he has said he has no money to pay for an adequate defense and requested legal aid. After he boycotted several court sessions, the court raised his defense budget to \$70,000 a month from \$45,000, Mr. von Hebel said.

Mr. Taylor’s complaints in court about the Dutch meals he was provided — his former lawyer called it “Eurocentric food” — have also paid off. Prison employees have searched for items perhaps more suitable for the African palate and now provide plantains, yams, corn flour, cassava, smoked fish and spices like ginger and peanut sauce to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lubanga, who have learned to cook with the help of a guard.

They can buy extras with their official pocket money of 10 euros, or \$13.70, a week.

An official of the special court based in Sierra Leone observed that amenities in The Hague may seem spartan to Mr. Taylor, but will seem luxurious to many poor West Africans. Pressed for a photograph of Mr. Taylor’s quarters, the court provided one of a cell it said was like Mr. Taylor’s. It shows a neat private space with a sink, a toilet, shelves and a worktable.

Mr. Dubuisson conceded that “it’s not a secret that we do have high standards.” While the jail already has cable television, he said he was now arranging for a satellite dish, because Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lubanga wanted news from Africa.

The prison has set aside a private space for conjugal visits. Mr. Taylor’s wife has been to see him. And then there is the sitting room equipped with games, a cooking range and a microwave oven. Answering further questions about prison life, Mr. Dubuisson replied with certain emphasis: “Yes, yes, the men do wash their own dishes. It’s not a hotel here.”

And by 8 p.m., he said, their cell doors are locked.

Daily Mail

Friday, 13 July 2007

Former Liberian president will be jailed in UK if convicted of war crimes

The former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, will serve his sentence in the UK if he is convicted of war crimes

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor - on trial for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone's civil war - will serve his sentence in Britain if he is convicted.

The government has signed the sentence enforcement agreement with the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying Taylor in The Hague.

Minister for Africa, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, said it demonstrates "our strong support for the court".

Taylor, whose trial opened last month, has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity related to the 1991-2002 civil war in Sierra Leone, which killed an estimated 50,000 people.

He is accused of instigating murder, mutilation, and the recruitment of child soldiers while backing Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds.

Sweden and Austria have also agreed to allow their prisons to hold other indictees convicted by the Sierra Leone Special Court.

After initially boycotting his trial, Taylor made a surprise appearance at the courtroom in The Hague earlier this month.

He had argued that he had inadequate funds to mount a proper defence, despite suspicions that he is hiding huge personal wealth.

Judges ordered that Taylor is assigned a defence team and have postponed the trial until August 20.

Prosecutors hope the trial will send a signal that international justice can operate efficiently and fairly, although some observers fear Taylor is intent on upstaging proceedings.

The court was set up jointly by Sierra Leone's government and the United Nations in 2002 to try those deemed most responsible for human rights violations.

Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Reuters

Friday, 13 July 2007

Liberia's Taylor to be jailed in UK if convicted

FREETOWN (Reuters) - Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is on trial for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone's civil war, would if convicted serve his sentence in Britain under an agreement made by British authorities.

The government signed the sentence enforcement agreement this week with the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying Taylor in The Hague, the court said in a statement released in Freetown.

"Signing this agreement enables the UK to give effect to our commitment to imprison former Liberian President Charles Taylor if he is convicted by the Special Court, and demonstrates again our strong support for the Court," Minister for Africa Lord Mark Malloch-Brown said in the statement.

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He is accused of instigating murder, mutilation, and the recruitment of child soldiers while backing Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds.

Malloch-Brown gave no details about which prison would hold Taylor if he were convicted.

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Judges ordered that Taylor be assigned a new defence team and have postponed the trial until August 20.

Prosecutors hope the trial will send a signal that international justice can operate efficiently and fairly as well as target the world's most powerful individuals. But some observers fear Taylor is intent on upstaging proceedings.

"We must all continue to make clear that there can be no impunity for those who would commit these serious crimes," Malloch-Brown said. He urged the international community to maintain support for the Special Court.

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Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

World Politics Review

Thursday, 12 July 2007

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/article.aspx?id=920#>

As Sentencing Approaches, Cynicism About Sierra Leone Tribunal Lingers

Lauren Gelfand | 12 Jul 2007

World Politics Review Exclusive

LONDON - Three militia generals found guilty for their roles in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war are expected to be sentenced Monday in the first step towards winding down the four-year, \$90 million proceedings at the ad hoc war crimes tribunal.

"The AFRC committed untold horrors -- mutilations, rapes, massacres, abductions -- throughout the towns and villages of Sierra Leone," Human Rights Watch researcher Corinne Dufka told WPR, who herself documented scores of cases of abuse by those under the command of the generals in custody.

"They effectively waged war against the civilian population, leaving a trail of loss and destruction in their wake. The guilty verdict will not only bring justice for the victims and their families, but also put future would-be perpetrators on notice that wars have rules, and these rules must be respected."

But with four of the five most important defendants dead and the fifth, former Liberian president Charles Taylor, in the dock in the Hague over fears he could still destabilize the fragile peace settled on West Africa, the cynicism and skepticism that greeted the court's opening in 2004 has not lessened with the guilty verdicts.

A foregone conclusion; victor's justice; a salvo to the West: each of those scornful pronouncements was uttered by Sierra Leonean media and pundits in the wake of the June 20 verdict, even as human rights organizations hailed the decisive action taken by the three-judge panel that will on July 16 hand down what are expected to be life sentences.

"I was one of those who supported the idea of setting up the Special Court and I know that one of the reasons the war was so bloody, so murderous, was because there was a sense of impunity. So I supported the idea of prosecuting those who were behind the war. But I think that it has been failing very largely," said Lansana Gberie, a Freetown-based academic who authored "A Dirty War in West Africa" about the conflict that raged from 1991-2001 in the impoverished former British colony.

"It's a charade, frankly, put up by the British and the Americans and fancy human rights groups around the world to assuage their own guilt. It may satisfy them, but it doesn't satisfy Sierra Leoneans."

More Sierra Leoneans would have found some measure of satisfaction from an efficient and well-resourced Truth and Reconciliation Commission, argues Suleymane Tejan Cie, a former lawyer for Sam Hinga Norman, one of the court's indictees who died in custody.

But the commission that was established was overshadowed by the court, both financially and in its scope.

"The TRC was not successful because certain key people who could have testified were not allowed to because of the Special Court," he said. "People were not looking anymore at them as perpetrators or

belligerents, people were looking at a united SL where everybody was saying sorry to everybody. That was the mood of the country and the Special Court just got rid of that and people became tense." The court's funding mechanism -- largely donations from former colonial power Britain and the United States -- also elicits harsh criticism from residents of the country of some five million people, the vast majority of whom live in poverty without access to clean water, sanitation, education or electricity.

Disdainfully, critics contend that money could have been used to build schools and hospitals, to bolster the shattered infrastructure of a country where, at one point in the halcyon post-independence days in 1961, there were double-decker buses plying paved roads, carrying students in foppish coats and ties to university.

Such accounting becomes all the more damning when measured against the roster of just who has been considered to bear "the greatest responsibility" for a war that claimed more than 100,000 lives by conservative estimates, and wreaked havoc by pitting neighbor against neighbor for over a decade.

The eight in custody at the prison alongside the gleaming court building atop one of Freetown's rolling hills -- one of the only significant construction projects to be undertaken in the seaside capital since the end of the war -- represent the military junta that took power briefly in 1997, a pro-government militia known as the Kamajors as well as the rebel movement bankrolled in no small part by diamond-smuggling allegedly orchestrated by Taylor.

The crimes of their conscripts notwithstanding, the eight lack the notoriety of their now-dead leaders, who themselves participated in the wholesale torture, rape and murder of civilians and opposing forces: Foday Sankoh, the one-time wedding photographer who first thought of using drug-addled young boys to fight his battle; his first lieutenant Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, who pioneered the use of amputations to bring villages into line; and junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma, who led a bloodless coup in 1997 that precipitated the country's hapless plunge back into civil war.

Sam Hinga Norman, the Kamajor leader who died in custody earlier this year, was considered a hero by a substantial subset of the population -- including a former British high commissioner for Sierra Leone -- for having beat back the rebels to end the war. His indictment was roundly criticized and also seen as a delegitimization of the court.

"My idea of the Special Court is more exalted than trying common criminals, thieves, murderers. Certain standards have to be set. These people are not significant enough to justify a trial of this magnitude," said Gberie.

The three indictees from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council -- Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie -- were relatively minor players in the military junta, rising through the ranks with every massacre perpetrated on the civilian population.

"A lot of the people in the army don't even know them; these are just very junior wayward soldiers," Gberie added. "Ask any person on the streets of Freetown who has suffered in the war whether they know anything about the AFRC people. They don't know them! It has absolutely no bearing on fighting impunity in Sierra Leone -- none whatsoever."

Such impunity still lingers in Sierra Leone, even as the country braces for elections many fear will only stir the longstanding faults seemingly endemic to the country: a lack of transparency, rampant corruption, nepotism and government by fear rather than rule of law.

Concrete effects of war, too, are lingering. Even now, six years since the end of the war, young women who were raped by rebels or army irregulars have been cast out from their homes, their offspring -- products of those rapes, most often at gun- or machete-point -- unwanted by those family members who remain.

"Most of the conditions that fueled the war are still in existence: widespread poverty, unemployment, a lot of anger against the elite," said Gberie. "There are still people out there who will find opportunities in war. You sit with them in their ghettos and some of them will wish any day for some kind of violence so that they can loot shops, steal food and money."

Such malaise could undermine any successes achieved by the court and the international interventions to restore justice to Sierra Leone, Dufka said.

"The success and failure of the court has to be based on the degree to which there are attitudinal changes; there needs to be a venting of the mentality that [so-called] big men can get away with whatever they want," she said.

"That is measurable when Sierra Leone itself is ready to hold leaders accountable for economic crimes, and the manipulation of power, when they take a closer look at the behavior of their elected representatives."

Lauren Gelfand is a freelance journalist and commentator with a special interest in African issues.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 July 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia's Taylor to be jailed in UK if convicted

FREETOWN, July 13 (Reuters) - Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is on trial for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone's civil war, would if convicted serve his sentence in Britain under an agreement made by British authorities. Britain's government signed the sentence enforcement agreement this week with the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying Taylor in the Dutch city of The Hague, the court said in a statement released in Freetown.

Liberia eyeing Taylor, ex-government officials' assets

MONROVIA, July 13, 2007 (AFP) - Liberian lawmakers are to debate a controversial bill aimed at freezing assets of former government officials, including Charles Taylor, accused of graft while in office, a parliamentary spokesman said Friday. The new post-war government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf which has vowed to fight corruption, submitted the proposed law to parliament a fortnight ago, Isaac Red said.

International Clips on West Africa

War crimes sentencing re-scheduled for Sierra Leone rebel chiefs

FREETOWN, July 13, 2007 (AFP) - Sentencing of three rebel leaders convicted of crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war due next week has been delayed by three days, the court said Friday. The court last month found Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara, and Santigie Borbor Kanu, guilty on 11 of the 14 charges against them which included murder, rape and enlisting child soldiers. Sentencing in the landmark judgment was initially scheduled for July 16.

Sierra Leone army backs police in face of pre-poll violence

FREETOWN, July 13, 2007 (AFP) - The military in war-ravaged Sierra Leone on Friday vowed to back police against rising violence at the start of campaigning for next month's elections. Police in the west Africa country have expressed alarm at the upsurge in violence ahead of the presidential and legislative elections on August 11.

The Ivorian Flame of Peace [document] Thabo Mbeki

Jul 13, 2007 (African National Congress/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- July 2007 should register itself as an important month in the history of Cote d'Ivoire. During this month, the President, the Prime Minister and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire intend to host an important event in that country's return journey to peace, reunification, national reconciliation and democracy.

Local Media – Newspaper

National Bank Not Responsibility for Inflation

(The Analyst, The Inquirer, The News, Daily Observer and Heritage)

- The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Dr. Mills Jones told forum of journalists yesterday that the Bank lacked the authority to determine exchange rates but does allow market forces to interplay, refuting reports that the Bank infused huge amount of money on the market resulting to inflation in the Country. He rather blamed the problem on the use of dual currency which he said possessed a major problem in controlling the market system.

Liberia and Nigeria Sign MOU for Quality Control

(The Analyst, The Informer and Heritage)

- The Governments of Liberia and Nigeria yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure quality control of commodities imported to Liberia. An Executive Mansion statement said that the MOU would obligate the Government of Liberia protect Liberians from harmful goods by preventing sub-standard goods from entering the Country.
- Commerce and Industry Minister, Olubankie King Akerele and the Director General of Standard Organization of Nigeria, Dr. John Akainyah signed for their respective Governments.

UN Envoy Lauds Filipino Peacekeepers

(Public Agenda and The News)

- Speaking at a ceremony to honour the Filipino Police contingent serving with the United Nations Mission in Liberia yesterday, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jordan Ryan paid tribute to the peacekeepers for contributing to the restoration of peace to Liberia, citing the specific work they have done in training the new Liberian police.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Central Bank of Liberia Denies Being Responsible for Inflation

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberia and Nigeria Sign MOU for Quality Control

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Law Professor Uncertain about Credentials of State Lawyers

- The former Dean at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, Jonathan Williams said that 99 percent of Defense Counsels at the Ministry of Justice are not lawyers and that 99 percent of Magistrates do not meet the criteria set by law. He pointed out that those serving as Magistrates and Defense Counsels ought be law school graduates.

Envoy Says Establishment of Telecommunication Entity Signifies Growth

- French Ambassador Jacques Gerard says the establishment of the West African Telecommunications Company in Liberia shows a restoration of confidence n the Liberian Government and economy.
- During a visit to the Company's offices yesterday, Ambassador Gerard said the setting up of such a communication entity in the Country is impressive in that it would provide advance technology and job opportunities for Liberians.

Government Commits to Freedom of the Press

- A three day seminar on media relations and building democracy in Liberia opened in Monrovia yesterday with the government recommitting itself to protecting press freedom and free speech.

Special Court Supplement
The National Railway Museum on Cline Street, Cline Town



One of the last steam engines to operate in Sierra Leone. The railway was shut down in 1975.



The National Railway Museum in Cline Town.



The oldest steam engine at the Museum, built in 1915.



Controls of a steam engine.



The trains first ran from Freetown to...



...Pendembu, and later to Magburaka.



Some of the old engines were taken back to the U.K.



The train's top speed was 13 miles per hour.



The carriage built for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 1961...



...was never used by HRH because of a change in her schedule.



The Queen's carriage included a balcony at the back.



The inside of the Queen's carriage.



A goods wagon (freight car), seen from the balcony of another.



An old inspection engine.



Passenger cars. As now, ticket prices did not include comfort.



A view of the Museum's interior.



Engine No. 107.