

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



An approaching storm near Makeni

**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:**

Thursday, 5 July 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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# The Christian Science Monitor

Thursday, 5 July 2007

Opinion

## Justice for Charles Taylor

Can this war-crimes court finally get it right?

By Helena Cobban  
Charlottesville, Va.

How effective are war-crimes courts at demonstrating that no one, regardless of his position, is above the law? Many rights activists had hoped that – after their disappointment with the trials of Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic and Iraq's Saddam Hussein – the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, under way in The Hague, could finally send the "right" deterrent message to other potentially abusive national leaders.

If this does happen (and I have some doubts), then it won't be happening anytime soon. On Monday, judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which is trying Mr. Taylor on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, confirmed that they've postponed the trial until Aug. 20. Taylor had previously sacked one lawyer the court had assigned to him. He wanted to defend himself, just as Mr. Milosevic did. But the SCSL judges clearly feared he would imitate the time-wasting and grandstanding that Milosevic engaged in before he died. So they've assigned Taylor new lawyers and have given them several weeks to prepare. (It's still unclear whether Taylor will cooperate with them.)

Like all criminal defendants, Taylor should be considered innocent until he is proven guilty. But there is much strong evidence against him. In 1989, he launched an armed uprising in his native Liberia and he soon emerged as a powerful and brutal participant in the civil war that then laid waste to the country. In 1996, the civil war officially ended, and, in the presidential election held in 1997, Taylor won a strong victory. Even after he became president, he continued to act like a warlord, abusing the citizenry and selling vast amounts of Liberia's natural resources for personal gain. (US evangelist Pat Robertson was one close business partner.)

Taylor also gave allegedly strong support to participants in the civil war roiling neighboring Sierra Leone. It was for those acts that the SCSL indicted him. In July 2003, President Bush started calling openly for his ouster. That August, the Nigerian president offered Taylor a safe haven there – provided he agree to stay out of Liberian politics. Taylor took up the offer. Then, in 2006, just before Mr. Bush visited Nigeria, the Nigerian authorities arrested Taylor, and the UN took him for trial at the SCSL.

The SCSL is a joint project of the UN and the Sierra Leonean government, located in Sierra Leone. However, the Sierra Leoneans feared that Taylor's trial might seriously destabilize the country's still-fragile politics. So, unlike the court's 10 other cases, this one was moved to the underutilized courtrooms of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

In 2002, when the UN was figuring out how to deal with the aftermath of the many atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, they tried to correct flaws that had become evident during the work of Africa's oldest war-crimes court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Serious criticisms of the ICTR have been expressed – by myself and others – on five main grounds. Despite the excellent motives of ICTR's founders and officials, it has been selective in its choice of cases. It has been disconnected, both geographically and conceptually,

from the primary stakeholders whom it seeks to serve, inside Rwanda. It has been very expensive, gobbling up international aid dollars. It has been largely unaccountable, either to the survivors of the Rwandan genocide or to anyone else. And it has strongly polarized Rwandan politics.

So in Sierra Leone, the UN located its new war-crimes court inside the country, and, by making it a "joint" court with the national justice system, they tried to maximize the good effects it would have on that system. Also, alongside the court, the UN established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that could – like its earlier model in South Africa – help build national reconciliation while getting the truth out about earlier atrocities. (The Sierra Leonean TRC finished its work in 2004, leaving a mixed record of achievement.)

When it moved the Taylor trial to The Hague, the SCSL replayed some of the disturbing features of the ICTR. Today, we still don't know how this trial will play out for the SCSL and for Sierra Leone's hard-pressed people.

It is good that Taylor's capacity to cause them further harm has, for now, been severely curtailed. But there are other ways that outcome can be achieved. For example, peace negotiators in northern Uganda are seeking to reintegrate their worst local warlord, Joseph Kony, back into normal society, much as Abraham Lincoln did with the US's Southern rebels after the civil war. (That approach has worked well in other places, including Mozambique and South Africa.) Also, unless the Sierra Leoneans can build a sustainably peaceful order, other warlords will emerge there in the future.

Events in the well-funded Hague courtroom may all seem very distant from the concerns of the Sierra Leoneans, who are still reeling from the impoverishment, mass killings, and dislocations inflicted on them.

• *Helena Cobban is a Friend in Washington for the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The views expressed here are her own.*

# The Liberian Times

Wednesday, 4 July 2007

Opinion

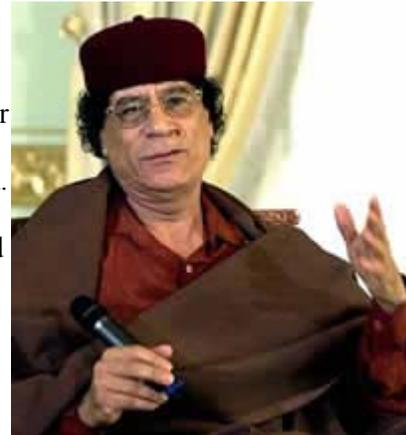
## Liberia: Is Mad Man Charles Taylor Creator, Ghadafi mad? part I

by Sam K Zinnah / Contributing Writer

*President of Libya, Muammar Abu Minyar al-Ghadafi. Is he Mad?*

In June of 1997, 98 Ghanaians were deported from Libya. Prior to their deportation, they were arrested at their various workplaces and detained for periods between two and three months before their deportation. Over 50 more Ghanaians were left languishing in Libyan cells awaiting deportation.

In November 2000, hundreds of African immigrants, mainly Nigerians and Ghanaians, living in Libya were arbitrarily rounded up beaten and some killed by Libya security forces. Their possessions were taken away from them and later expelled from the country. Embarrassed over the treatment, the Ghanaian president “at the time” J. J. Rawlings personally traveled to Libya to take delivery of his citizens.



In 2004, 251 Ghanaians were again deported from Libya. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Ghadafi was among the Africans that were forcibly pushed out of their land by the Arabs and some Europeans. Decades now, those false (white) Africans have dehumanized other Africans who suppose to be part of them. So if Ghadafi is really serious to create the United States of Africa, he must be ready to expel the Arabs and whites Europeans that forcibly settled in Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and other white occupied lands in Africa.

Over the years, Ghadafi has been one of the covert hands behind every conflict in the region. He overtly trained Charles Taylor to take on parts of West Africa while he relaxed in his multi-million dollars palace in Tripoli.

In 1997, the French Weekly Newspaper published some of Ghadafi’s colleagues assets. For example: General Sani Abaca of Nigeria, USD\$20 billion, late Ivorian President Flex Houphet. Boigny, USD\$ 6 billion, General Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria, USD\$ 5 billion, the late President Mobutu of Zaire, USD\$4 billion, President Mousa Traore of Mali, USD\$2 billion, Henri Bedie of Ivory Coast, USD\$300 million, President Denis N'guesso of Congo, USD\$200 million, President Omar Bongo of Gabon, USD\$80 million, President Paul Biya of Cameroon, USD\$70 million, President Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, USD\$30 million, President Hissene Habre of Chad, USD\$3 million, indicted former Liberian President Charles Taylor, The late President Gabassinga Eyadema of Togo, former Ghanaian president Jerry J. Rawlings, Bokena Faso’s Blaist Camporare, and the late President Samuel Doe of Liberia; a host of African government ministers would make an updated list. Portion of these stolen monies are covertly kept in Libya. Is Mr. Revolutionary “Ghadafi” prepared to return the portion of these stolen monies to the appropriate countries? Is he ready to confess his evil deeds in the region?

For decade now, Qaddafi’s campaign to install tele-guided regimes in various African states had encountered series of frustrations but he still believed that the United States of Africa is a prerequisite to the unity of Africa. In my view, there is “the continent of Africa” but there will never be “a United States of Africa”. The above names and assets serves as my convincing point for my view. Compare the assets of these dictators to the conditions of the masses in the region or the living condition of their citizens.

The unity of Africa will affect the economy of the west so the continent of Africa will always be the diamond mine of the west. Ghadafi must really be mad “to go causing noise all around the continent” for something that he has never encouraged in the region.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 July 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **President Dos Santos Sends Message to Liberian Counterpart**

Accra, Jul 03, 2007 (Angola Press Agency/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- A message from the Angolan head of State, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, was delivered Monday in Accra, Ghana, to the Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The letter, handed by Foreign minister, Joao Bernardo de Miranda, on the fringes of the 9th Summit of the African Union (A.U), stresses the interest of the Angolan Government in reinforcing bilateral co-operation with Liberia.

#### **Uncontrolled Trash Greatest Public Health Threat in Monrovia - UN**

Monrovia, Jul 03, 2007 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- As mountains of garbage expand in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, the UN Environment Programme has called on the government and private sector to repair the country's broken system for collecting trash.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Ivory Coast PM says he knows who tried to kill him**

ABIDJAN, July 4, 2007 (AFP) - Ivory Coast Prime Minister Guillaume Soro said he knows who tried to kill him by firing rockets at his plane last week and it was not members of his own movement, local media reported Wednesday. "It is an attack and we know who did it. There are traces, but I am not going to preempt the investigation," he was quoted as saying during a meeting with his military chiefs Tuesday in Bouake, where the attack took place.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Lawmakers Opt for Compromise over Budget Issues**

*(The News, The Inquirer and Heritage)*

- The ongoing debate in the National Legislature over issues of the draft fiscal budget has taken a rather compromising trend as the House of Representatives on Tuesday resolved at an executive session for Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh, Auditor-General John Morlu and Bureau of the Budget Director Augustine Ngafuan to reconcile whatever differences they may have over the budget.

#### **Taylor Pleads Not Guilty on Sexual Slavery and Rape**

*(The News, National Chronicle, The Inquirer, The Liberian Diaspora, National Chronicle and New Democrat)*

- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor on Tuesday made a surprised appearance at his war crimes trial in The Hague for the first time, having entered a plea of not guilty to sexual slavery and rape as contained in a new count.

### **Lawmakers to Debate Critical Bill**

*(Daily Observer)*

- A proposed legislation seeking to freeze or confiscate the assets of corrupt public officials has been introduced for debate at the House of Representatives. The Bill was recently forwarded to the National Legislature by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But the Legislative Caucus of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) said the proposed bill is “vindictive” and would resist its passage into law as such.

### **Opposition Party Rejects Request for Consultative Talks**

*(Daily Observer)*

- The Liberty Party says it will not participate in Friday’s consultative meeting with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. President Sirleaf had requested a meeting with leaders of political parties in Monrovia, but the Liberty Party said it would not attend the gathering on the grounds that the Government has supposedly failed to address issues of national interest.

### **UNMIL Officer-in-Charge Says Liberia at a Crossroads**

*(Public Agenda)*

- The Officer-in-Charge of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Jordan Ryan said Liberia was now at a crossroads in its attainment of lasting peace. He made the assertions recently at a ceremony in Monrovia to award peacekeeping medals to UN Police Officers from Fiji.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Presidency Sends Crucial Acts to Lawmakers**

### **Government Financial Experts and Lawmakers Meeting Fails**

### **Political Party Declines Meeting President Friday**

### **Court Gives Money for Taylor’s Defence**

- According to Reuters News Agency, the Special Court for Sierra Leone announced that it will give a monthly grant of US\$70,000 for the legal defence of former President Charles Taylor. The agency quoted the Court official as saying that this amount would be given for Mr. Taylor’s defence despite suspension that he was hiding a huge personal wealth.

*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. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

## Voice of America

Thursday, 5 July 2007

### Uganda to Set Up Special Court for Rebels

By Peter Clotney  
Washington, D.C.

Uganda's government Wednesday said it will soon set up a special tribunal, which would deal with war crimes allegedly committed by the Lord Resistance Army rebels during its 20 year insurgency against President Yoweri Museveni's government. However, internal affairs minister Ruhakana Rugunda said the tribunals would not handle alleged atrocities committed by the national army, Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) because he said the army already has existing court marshals for punishing soldiers. But the rebels have described the government's move as "backstabbing". The LRA also accused the government of flouting the recently signed agreement on accountability and reconciliation by targeting only the rebels for trial, while leaving out the alleged UPDF perpetrators.

Ruhakana Rugunda tells VOA English to Africa reporter Peter Clotney in a telephone interview what the tribunals would entail.

"It is true that there is going to be alternative justice mechanism to be able to handle the cases of accountability and reconciliation, following the signing of the agreement on agenda item number three. However, consultations would soon be taking place with key stakeholders to agree on the exact form of justice mechanism," he noted.

He said the justice mechanism would be a mixture of justice systems to address the issue of the accountability and reconciliation.

"In effect it would be a combination of the formal justice system in Uganda, combined with traditional justice system, so that we get a maximum advantage from both systems in order to deal with this matter of impunity and reconciliation," he said.

Rugunda said the soon-to-be set up tribunals would be used to prosecute only the rebels who are alleged to have committed atrocities but not the national army, the UPDF.

"The reason is because over the years of the conflict, the Uganda People's Defense Forces Act has been used to try suspects who belong to the UPDF, and punishment has been meted out following this law. And therefore, there is a well-tested, a well-established system of using UPDF law to try the suspects. Therefore, we would continue using that law to try the suspects of the UPDF," Rugunda pointed out.

He denied the government has deceived the rebels as is being speculated.

"No, this is just summary of what we have agreed on, the question of deceit does not arise. This is a position that is well discussed, a position that we have agreed on. In fact, what we have done is merely to announce to the country the essential content of the agreement on accountability and reconciliation, at least the principles of it," he said.

Rugunda said he agrees with the leader of the rebels negotiating team, Martin Ojul, that both the government and the rebels should be held accountable for the atrocities committed in the northern part of the country.

“I agree with what Martin Ojul has said that accountability must cover everybody, it is just that the UPDF over the years has always had rigorous systems of accountability, and judicial systems have worked and worked very well; harsh punishment has been meted out of UPDF soldiers that have been found guilty. Some of them have actually been executed under this law, and therefore, rigorous accountability mechanisms over UPDF. All we are saying is that it should not only be UPDF that should account, but that Lord’s Resistance Army members should also account,” Rugunda noted.

**BBC Online**

Wednesday, 4 July 2007

### **Rwanda major guilty of UN murders**

A former Rwandan army major has been found guilty of murdering 10 Belgian peacekeepers in the early days of the 1994 genocide.

But Bernard Ntuyahaga, 55, was cleared by a Belgian court of the murder of then Rwandan PM Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

The Belgian UN peacekeepers were killed in front of Rwandan army officers, including Ntuyahaga.

The murders triggered the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers and the genocide of some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Prosecutors said Ntuyahaga took the peacekeepers from the residence of the PM, who they were trying to protect.

He then handed them over to fellow soldiers in a military camp in the capital, Kigali, where they were beaten to death, shot or slain with machetes.

The 12 jurors will reconvene on Thursday to decide on the sentence.

Ntuyahaga can appeal against the verdict on procedural grounds but not on substance.