

**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 at:

Tuesday, 14 August 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Reuters

Monday, 13 August 2007

Trial of Liberia's Taylor delayed again

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has been postponed again after his new defense team asked for a delay until January 2008 to prepare fully, a court spokesman said on Monday.

The trial was due to resume on August 20, but the court will now meet then to decide how to proceed and judges are expected to set a new date for the case to continue, the spokesman added in a statement.

Taylor, accused of instigating murder, rape and mutilation in a quest for diamonds during the West African country's civil war, boycotted the opening of his trial in June in a dispute over the resources allocated his defense.

Lengthy legal wrangling ensued and more funds were eventually made available to Taylor. A new defense team was appointed last month.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up with United Nations backing to try some of those deemed most culpable for crimes against humanity in the country's 1991-2002 war.

Drugged up rebels and militia fighters, often only children themselves, killed, raped and maimed men, women and children.

Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Freetown, Sierra Leone. On Saturday, the country held its first elections since the departure of U.N. peacekeepers two years ago.

Rapaport News

Monday, 13 August 2007

Taylor Trial May Not Begin Before January

By Avi Krawitz Posted

RAPAPORT... The trial of former Liberia President Charles Taylor could be delayed into January 2008, the Special Court for Sierra Leone at The Hague stated on Monday (August 13, 2007) after Taylor's new defense team requested a postponement to give it time to prepare the case.

The court's press and outreach officer Solomon Moriba told Rapaport News it was impossible for the trial to proceed as scheduled on August 20, and that a "status conference" would be held on that date instead to decide when the trial would commence.

"The new defense team has requested additional time to become familiar with the case, and they are asking for an adjournment until January 7, 2008," Moriba said. "The actual date will be decided by the trial chamber, probably during the status conference."

Taylor initially boycotted the trial, which has been plagued by delays since it was slated to start in June, and fired his legal team over concerns he would not receive a fair trial.

London-based attorney Courtenay Griffiths subsequently accepted an offer to defend him and immediately requested a postponement to give him time to read through documentation surrounding the case.

The trial is the most high profile case surrounding Sierra Leone's decade long civil war in which diamonds were used to fund arms. Taylor was allegedly involved in arming, training and controlling the Revolutionary United Front -- a group responsible for the mass mutilations, rape, and murder synonymous with the war. Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the conflict.

Radio New Zealand

Tuesday, 14 August 2007

War crimes trial postponed

The war crimes trial of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, has been postponed again, after his new lawyers asked for a delay until January to prepare.

The trial in the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone was due to resume in a week.

A spokesperson says judges will meet then and are expected to set a new date.

Taylor is accused of instigating murder, rape and mutilation in neighbouring Sierra Leone in a quest for diamonds during a civil war from 1991 until 2002. He boycotted the opening of the trial in June in a dispute over the resources allocated to his defence.

A new defence team was appointed last month.

Trial of Charles Taylor Website

Monday, 13 August 2007

Trial to be Postponed Again, Defense Counsel Asks for Adjournment Until January 2008

The Court announced today that the trial will not proceed on August 20 as originally scheduled, but it will hold a status conference on that date at 11 a.m. during which the length of the delay will likely be decided. This announcement follows a motion by the new defense team requesting adjournment of the trial until January 7, 2008, to allow “adequate time and facilities for the preparation of [Taylor’s] defence, as required by Article 17 of the Statute of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.”

The Prosecution filed a response to this motion, indicating that the defence had established good cause for a reasonable delay to allow time to prepare, but leaving the duration of the delay to the Court’s discretion. We will be posting live from the Hague on August 20 to provide an update on the Court’s decision.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 August 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian police chief sanctioned after Monrovia port battle

MONROVIA, Aug 10, 2007 (AFP) - Liberian police chief Beatrice Munnah Sieh has been put on probation and will undergo training abroad after a violent clash between police and security staff at Monrovia port, an official said Friday.

International Clips on West Africa

Elections Coincide With Prophet's Appointment Anniversary

Aug 10, 2007 (The Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The elections in Sierra Leone scheduled for August 11 have coincided with the prophetic appointment of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. The 27 of Rajab of the Islamic calendar this year falls on August 11.

Sierra Leone readies for defining vote

FREETOWN, Aug 9, 2007 (AFP) - Sierra Leoneans will on Saturday vote in presidential and legislative elections expected to see the West African country turn the page on its decade-long civil war fuelled by "blood diamonds". The elections are only the second since the country emerged from one of the most brutal wars in modern history and the first Sierra Leone is organizing after the departure of some 17,500 UN peacekeepers in 2005.

Local Media – Newspaper

President Reprimands Police Inspector-General

(The News, The Informer, The Analyst, The Inquirer, Public Agenda, Daily Observer, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary, Mr. Cyrus Badio announced that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf placed Liberia National Police Inspector-General Beatrice Munnah Sieh on probation and asked her to undergo a month's training in leadership and strategic management abroad.

Beninose President and SRSG Hold Talk on National Security

(The Analyst, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- During a meeting of the President of Benin, Dr. Boni Yayi and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss Wednesday, President Yayi thanked UNMIL for helping to restore peace to Liberia and hoped the Mission will continue its engagement with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her Government. For his part, Mr. Doss assured that the Mission will remain in Liberia until the Country's security forces were adequately ready to protect the State.

Outgoing Nigerian Envoy Honored

(Heritage and The Inquirer)

- At a colorful ceremony to honour the outgoing Nigerian Ambassador Eineje Onubu, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf commended Ambassador Onubu for the sacrifices he made on behalf of Nigeria in efforts to restore peace and stability to Liberia. According to an Executive Mansion release, the Liberian leader described Ambassador Onubu as a true patriot who not only dedicated his time and energy in the service of his nation, peacekeeping contingent in UNMIL and people but also stood by Liberia in time of war and peace.

Newspaper Says Tribal feelings for Coup Plotters May spoil Reconciliation Process

(The Liberian Diaspora)

- A survey purportedly conducted by *The Liberian Diaspora* newspaper revealed that tribal sentiments which have developed in the wake of the trial of the alleged coup plotters Charles Julu and George Koukou are likely to disrupt the reconciliation process. The paper cited the deteriorating security situation in the wake of the arrests of the two men as a major determinant of a threat to the reconciliation process.

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

Police Inspector General Survives Dismissal Recommendation

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

LISGIS Launches Liberia-Info Dissemination Tool Today

- In a statement yesterday, the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) said it will today launch the Liberia-Info, a development and dissemination tool for the country and said this would enable main information contained in statistical surveys to be stored and made available to users.
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)