

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



Future football stars of the Leone Stars

**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, 13 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

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## World Politics

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

### Sierra Leone Tribunal Confronts Funding Woes With Taylor Still Awaiting Trial

Lauren Gardner

WASHINGTON -- The hybrid war crimes tribunal set up by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations achieved what international observers described as a major milestone in July when it delivered sentences of 45 and 50 years to three men convicted of committing war crimes during Sierra Leone's late-1990s civil war.

The ruling at the Special Court for Sierra Leone marked the first-ever conviction of an African warlord for using child soldiers, and it came just a few weeks before a second round of convictions, on Aug. 2, in which two other former militia leaders were found guilty of war crimes.

While these advances have drawn praise from the international community, they've occurred in the shadow of the Special Court's lack of progress in the trial of Charles Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia indicted for crimes connected to exacerbating Sierra Leone's war.



From the start, the Special Court has been troubled by financial woes, which observers say can only be expected to grow in the months and years to come. Already, the court "doesn't have enough money," says Elise Keppler, counsel to the International Justice Program at New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Keppler, who contends that the court will need more cash when the current round of litigation is finished, told World Politics Review that judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers often don't know how much money the court will receive in donations well enough in advance to plan effectively for trials and to maintain necessary staff levels. She added that court staffers are regularly put in the position of having to take time away from their jobs to raise funds.

David Crane, who served as the court's chief prosecutor from 2002 until 2005, says that about 70 percent of his work was spent dealing with politics and diplomacy, which included fundraising from both governmental and non-governmental sources.

"You're always thinking about money," he said.

It is possible that the court's financial problems are simply a design flaw, according to a March 2006 report by New York-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

The report, titled "The Special Court for Sierra Leone Under Scrutiny," (pdf file) outlined how the court was intentionally set up differently from the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, which created a financial drain on U.N. resources.

The result, according to the report, is that the Sierra Leone court's budget is only about \$25 million a year, compared to some \$120 million per year for each for the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals.

Human Rights Watch asserts that the court's defense office has lacked sufficient funds. While "[we are] all for cost efficiency," said Keppler, everyone involved in the court still needs the appropriate resources to function.

## The Role of 'Interested' States



contributing about \$35 million between 2002 and 2006.

The U.N. Secretariat and Sierra Leone are also on the management committee, which was established to take the place of the U.N. Secretariat in managing donations received for the court. Unlike the funding for the Rwanda and Yugoslavia tribunals, the donations are made voluntarily, rather than being mandated by the United Nations.

Despite funding problems that have plagued the court, Crane, the former prosecutor, defended the court's financial autonomy from the United Nations.

In an interview with WPR, Crane maintained that it was a good decision to keep operations outside of the United Nations' assessed funding system as a means of limiting the extent to which U.N. bureaucracy could slow the court's progress.

"[The current system] does work -- it just has to be consistent, that's all," he said.

According to the ICTJ report, the committee is not allowed to advise the court on any judicial matters. Its central role is to ensure that the court's funding levels are maintained, and to encourage other countries to contribute funds. However, the report maintains that the committee has failed to rally the political and financial support needed for the court's future.

Members attending committee meetings regularly are legal advisers, with no financial training and busy schedules, the report's authors wrote.

### Outreach Key in Taylor Case

Human Rights Watch notes that a key aspect of the management committee's work is supposed to be outreach to citizens of Sierra Leone so that they may learn about and follow the Court's actions.

This function, according to Keppler, is especially critical in the case of Charles Taylor. While the court itself is located in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, the Taylor case is so sensitive it is being tried in The Hague due to concerns for Sierra Leone's stability if the trial were to be held in the country's capital city.

The Taylor trial was slated to open in April, but has faced repeated disruptions. In mid-August, when Taylor announced that he was dismissing his court-appointed defense lawyer, the trial was postponed for the fourth time. With Taylor's new lawyer arguing that at least four more months are needed to prepare, a future hearing has been scheduled for January.

With some observers arguing that the trial's delay could be the result of an unnecessary rush created by judges, who are under international pressure to swiftly exact justice on Taylor, Keppler stressed the need for public outreach.

Marieke Wierda, who co-authored the ICTJ report and serves as a senior associate with the organization, says that while the court operates autonomously from other U.N. bureaucracy, it is still subject to the oversight of a management committee.

The committee is comprised of "interested states," which, says Wierda, include the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands -- the four countries that have donated the most to keep the court going.

The United States is the biggest donor,

"The need for effective outreach is all the more important" because of the Taylor trial's location, she said, adding that outreach should also be "envisioned as part and parcel of the kind of work these tribunals need to do."

The cost of such outreach can be expected to grow, as the court's management committee seeks to bring video feeds and radio reports about the Taylor trial's progress to the Sierra Leonean public.

Money must also be raised for Sierra Leonean and Liberian journalists to travel to The Hague to cover the trial themselves, said Keppler.

According to Crane, donor countries may not technically be allowed to influence the court's decisions, but they can exert their influences by choosing what to fund or not fund.

As an example, he cited the management committee's refusal to fund "groundbreaking initiatives" with the outreach programs, a development that has forced senior members at the court to devote time to fundraising in addition to their other work at the court.

Outreach is not considered part of the court's core budget, Keppler said. Donors must earmark their contributions for outreach, as its funding is considered separately, she added, noting that the European Commission is one donor that has particularly helped with outreach.

### **U.S. Funding and Influence**

Another issue facing the committee is the stigma surrounding its predominant donors. The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands were the top four donors the first three years of the Court's existence.

The United States' financial leadership is somewhat ironic given that the Bush administration has not signed the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of U.N.-backed International Criminal Courts.

Despite U.S.- and U.K.-funding predominance and the noticeable influence they exert over the management committee, the ICTJ maintains Western countries do not outwardly control the court and its actions.

"The Court's job is to be independent," said ICTJ Senior Associate Wierda. "It is, after all, not a private business, and the Management Committee should not be confused as shareholders. They exercise oversight, but only in a broad, non-judicial way."

While published reports indicate the United States contributed approximately \$35 million to the court from its inception until 2006, figures for 2007 are presently unavailable.

The U.S. State Department did not respond to repeated requests for comment on how the money is appropriated and the extent to which U.S. funding may be expected to continue in the years to come.

### **The High Price of Witness Protection**

According to the ICTJ report, there are several instances in which court expenses have exceeded expectations, particularly in the areas of security and witness protection.

Noting the relatively small size of Sierra Leone, the speed with which news travels through informal networks, and the lingering presence of ex-combatants from the country's civil war, the report stated that "witness protection [costs] are inevitably high when the court is located in-country."

The issue is "slowly being addressed and looked at" by the United Nations, according to Keppler, who maintains that witness protection is an issue that will affect the court well after the trials and appeals end.

"That doesn't stop when the Court stops hearing cases," she said, arguing that Sierra Leoneans cannot be solely responsible for such issues if they arise and that international oversight is necessary.

She also noted the potential future costs of managing the conditions of incarceration for war criminals convicted by the court.

Crane also believes post-trial expense planning must be a priority. He said initiatives are under way to deal with residual issues such as witness protection and post-trial psychological support.

The United Nations is working to create a single office to handle residual issues for tribunals such as the Special Court, an office that Crane has pushed for and calls "the U.N. war crimes residual office."

"I admonished even at the beginning that the Special Court will never go away," he said.

Keppler asserted that the Special Court for Sierra Leone will send an important message to the world by showing that war criminals will not live in a world of impunity.

It will be "disastrous" if the Court cannot finish its work, she said, adding that "it's essential that donors come forward," especially now, as the Court heads into its final stretch.

*Lauren Gardner served as a summer international news intern for World Politics Review. She is an undergraduate senior at American University in Washington, D.C., and Editor in Chief of The Eagle, the university's student-run newspaper.*

*Top photo: The Freetown chambers and three judges of the Special Court (SCSL photo)*

Miamiherald.Com

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

### **Ex-leader's son pleads not guilty to torture**

The son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court in Miami to a new U.S. indictment charging his involvement in brutal killings and horrific acts of torture on victims in the West African nation.

Charles McArthur Emmanuel commanded the elite Antiterrorist Unit in his father's regime. He is accused in the indictment of shooting three people picked from a group stopped at a bridge checkpoint in 1999 and ordering another victim's throat cut as punishment for attempting to escape.

Many of the seven victims described in the indictment were held in below-ground pits covered with iron bars and barbed wire. Melted plastic, hot irons, scalding water, electric shocks, beatings with weapons and iron bars, lit cigarettes and molten candle wax were all allegedly used to torture the victims described in the eight-count indictment, which covers the span from spring 1999 to late 2002.

Emmanuel, a 30-year-old, Boston-born U.S. citizen also known as Chuckie Taylor, pleaded not guilty to the new charges at a brief hearing before U.S. District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga. The trial is scheduled for January.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 September 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **New US Africa military command to start work next month**

BRUSSELS, Sept 12, 2007 (AFP) - The United States launches in Germany next month a new military command for Africa with small teams of key staff, but no troops, based on the continent, a senior US defense official said Wednesday. The Africa Command (AFRICOM) will initially work from Stuttgart, and have a year to prepare six locations in, as yet, unidentified African countries, said US Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Ryan Henry. The move comes amid heightened US military activities in the region, much of it aimed at denying new havens for militant Islamic groups aligned with Al-Qaeda. Henry said no formal talks had begun with any country on hosting US staff there, but US officials confirmed that Liberia had applied to do so, and that Botswana, Djibouti and Senegal were open to the idea.

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

#### **UN chief welcomes "generally" peaceful presidential election in Sierra Leone**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 10, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed on Monday the "generally orderly and peaceful" holding of the second round of presidential elections in Sierra Leone. "The secretary-general is pleased to note that the second round of the presidential election in **Sierra Leone** took place on 8 September in a generally orderly and peaceful atmosphere, in spite of the tensions and violence that marred the campaign period," Ban's press office said in a statement.

#### **UPDATE 1-S. Leone poll rivals squabble over early results**

By Katrina Manson

FREETOWN, Sept 11 (Reuters) - Opposition leader Ernest Bai Koroma claimed victory in Sierra Leone's presidential election but the ruling party accused him of trying to "steal" the poll as results trickled in on Tuesday from the weekend vote. Official results with nearly two-fifths of votes counted from across the West African country showed Koroma of the All People's Congress (APC) on 60 percent, ahead of Vice-President Solomon Berewa of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) on 40 percent. National Electoral Commission head Christiana Thorpe said results from some polling stations had had to be invalidated.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **UNMIL and Margibi Health Team Open Medical Center in Margibi County**

(The Inquirer)

- The Nigerian Contingent of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in collaboration with the County Health Team of Margibi has formally opened another medical outreach center in Bolola Township.
- Speaking at the ceremony on Tuesday, Sector One Commander, Brig. Gen. Olayemi Abidoye of the Nigerian Contingent said it was important to reconstruct Health and Educational systems of the country which they have come to help after successfully restoring peace.
- He said the people who were not opportune to be treated at the Medical outreach because of complicated illness would be transferred to Monrovia for further treatment.
- Also speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Hawah Kamara of the County Health Team expressed gratitude to the Nigerian Contingent for the initiative and urged residents to make use of the facility.

### **Muslims Begin Holy Month of Ramadan Tomorrow**

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The Informer)

- The Grand Mufti of Muslims in Liberia, Imam Shiek Abubakar Sumaworo yesterday announced that the Holy Month of Ramadan officially begins tomorrow September 13.
- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is a time all Muslims worldwide fast for a month. Imam Sumaworo urged Muslims to use the period of fasting to pray for peace for the nation and government.

### **Auditor General Defends Action to “Downsize” Employees**

(Heritage, The Inquirer and New Democrat)

- Liberia’s Auditor General, John Morlu has defended his action to dismiss several employees of the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- Despite the intervention by the Liberian Senate for the reinstatement of some 71 employees dismissed by the commission, Mr. Morlu said the action was in line with its mandate and to withdraw such decision would be a violation of the budget law.
- He said the budget law authorizes him to restructure the commission which includes downsizing and recruiting qualified personnel.
- Speaking on Tuesday when he appeared before the Senate to give reasons why he should not be held in contempt for failing to execute its mandate to reinstate individuals affected by the downsizing, the Auditor General said the National Legislature approved the dismissal of unqualified employees of the GAC.
- Meanwhile, the Senate has reserved its decision against Mr. Morlu for Thursday.

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

### **House Speaker Confirms Government’s Commitment to One-China Policy**

- Correspondents said that the Speaker of the House of Representatives Alex Tyler said that the Government of Liberia was committed to the one-China policy and would do nothing to change it.
- During discussions with the new Chinese Ambassador Zhou Yu Zhou who visited his office yesterday, Speaker Tyler praised China for the level of support provided the former Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian.
- In turn, the new Chinese Ambassador Zhou praised the people of Liberia for upholding the one-China Policy and that China will create a good investment environment that could attract investors to Liberia.

(*Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio*)

### **Auditor-General Morlu Denies Sacking Workers of his Bureau**

- Appearing before the Plenary of the Senate, the Auditor-General of Liberia John Morlu denied dismissing anyone employee at the General Auditing Commission hence he could not implement the Senate’s order calling for the reinstatement of some 100 employees of the Commission because they were not dismissed. Some employees of the Commission had claimed that they were dismissed by Mr. Morlu.

(*Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio*)

**Supreme Court Jails Immigration Commander Assigned at key Airport**

- Correspondents said that the Supreme Court of Liberia jailed for one week the Commander of the Immigration Detachment at the Roberts International Airport Felton Sherman for disobeying the Court's order. The Court had allowed two National Patriotic Party Executives to travel to Taiwan after a lower court stopped them from leaving the Country.
- For his part, Solicitor-General Tiawon Gongloe apologized to the Court and said that the act of the officers was not intentional but was late to follow the Court's order due to time factor.
- But the Justice in Chambers Cllr. Kabineh Ja'neh ordered Solicitor-General Gongloe to investigate Immigration Commissioner Chris Massaquoi to find out as to whether or not he saw the Court order.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

*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).*

## International Herald Tribune

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

### Striking back at kleptocrats

If someone breaks into your house, steals your money, and then lives off your wealth for years after being released, you would be pretty upset. Imagine how the people of Liberia feel. Former President Charles Taylor, who is on trial in The Hague, is alleged to have stashed away more than \$3 billion of stolen wealth (including blood diamonds) in American, Swiss and other international banks - roughly equivalent to the entire annual gross domestic product of Liberia.

You could fill a Corruption Hall of Shame with high-profile kleptocrats who have looted their national treasuries. In the last decade alone, new entrants would include Slobodan Milosevic, Alberto Fujimori and Mobutu Sese Seko. They join some of the most corrupt leaders of recent history, like Sani Abacha who stole the equivalent of 2 to 3 percent of Nigeria's GDP for every year he was in office, or Ferdinand Marcos, who is estimated to have pocketed between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

There are plenty of serving rulers who are on their way to qualifying for induction into this ignoble club. They typically qualify by illegally taking over private enterprises, siphoning off money from state-owned monopolies, rigging procurement contracts, stealing foreign aid, or even by looting cash straight from the central bank.

Corruption enriches them and their cronies, but hurts everyone else. Developing countries are the most vulnerable. Where private investment is limited, people depend more on the state. If the state is stealing from its citizens, there is less money for education, health care, roads and hospitals, not to mention a functioning justice system.

As capital takes flight, the financial system becomes tainted. Investors and development agencies stay away. Poverty deepens, the public's trust is eroded, and democracy is threatened.

This creates an open trough for the large-scale looting of public assets - free from public accountability, systemic checks and balances, and the rule of law. It also makes societies more vulnerable to organized crime and conflict.

What can be done? The World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have just launched a stolen-asset recovery initiative to help developing countries. A key aim is to deter would-be kleptocrats by demonstrating that there is no safe haven for illicit gains. This is a shared responsibility between developing countries and those where dirty money ends up.

Developing countries need help in strengthening the rule of law and building accountability and transparency measures into public financial management. Establishing independent anti-corruption agencies and financial intelligence units are two essential keys.

Compliance should be stressed among lawyers, accountants and real estate professionals who are often used, wittingly or unwittingly, to help hide assets. Laws on trusts and corporations should be reviewed to ensure that they are legitimate vehicles rather than safe havens for stolen assets.

Stolen assets are most likely to be detected when they are first spirited away, during the initial transfer of funds overseas as part of the money laundering process. Why not create a hot line to report stolen assets, similar to those already used for missing persons or suspected terrorist

suspects? Wire transfers are so fast and evidence can disappear so quickly that a real-time response is required.

Banks and other companies should more stringently apply due diligence, for example by expanding "know-your-customer" norms and anti-money laundering policies to real estate and stock markets. They should be aware of the risk to their reputations if they are found to be harboring stolen goods.

Mutual legal assistance can help ensure that governments receive cooperation in recovering assets that have been hidden abroad, and in extraditing those responsible for the theft.

Prison is insufficient punishment for the guilty. It deprives them of their liberty, but not their ill-gotten gains. Take away their hidden loot and they will really feel the pain. It will also discourage others from stealing in the first place.

Ideally, stolen assets should benefit the public good. In Italy, land confiscated from the mafia has been used to grow olives, cereals and grapes to make products distributed through student cooperatives. In Colombia, the government is putting assets seized from drug lords back into public hands, for example, giving land to the poor. The "poppy palaces" of corrupt officials and drug traffickers in Afghanistan could be turned into schools.

Tough safeguards will be needed to ensure that returned assets do not get stolen again by a new generation of leaders. That means monitoring the use of recovered funds by officially recording the receipt of the assets, declaring their intended use, and reporting on expenditure.

It is good to see corrupt leaders behind bars. But the money that they have stolen should not be locked away as well.

Cooperation among governments - rich and poor - as well as the financial sector can make sure that stolen assets are returned to their rightful owners - the people.

*Antonio Maria Costa is executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.*

**Boston.com**

Thursday, 13 September 2007

[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articl](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articl)

## **Liberia's small steps on reform**

By Carolyn Norris and Mark L. Schneider

LIBERIA IS appearing to have turned a real corner. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has shown impressive progress on reforms since she was elected in 2005. In the fight against endemic corruption, she has forced her ministers to follow her lead in disclosing their assets, and she is renegotiating sweetheart contracts in rubber, timber, and mining. To keep her government on the level, she has agreed to have international experts cosign with ministers before major expenditures are approved. And in a make-or-break test for a historically weak and corrupt judiciary, the attorney general is prosecuting her predecessor.

Measured against the past, these steps are notable, and part of the benefit is boosted tax revenues - up nearly 50 percent over last year. In the past, too often revenues went into private pockets rather than the treasury.

Of course, measured against the goals of a functioning state and economy, Liberia has a long way to go. Those within the administration suspected of wrongdoing have been removed but are yet to be prosecuted. Key commissions for fighting corruption, for postconflict truth and reconciliation, and for human rights are pending legislative approval or only just getting started.

This week, the head of the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia will present the Security Council with a phased drawdown strategy for the mission's 14,000 peacekeepers but with a strong "hold and review" warning after each phase. He also argues that even when the peacekeeping force ideally drops to 9,000 in 2010, a strong force will still need to see the country through its 2011 elections.

In short, then, Liberia has taken a few promising steps toward recovery, but it still faces a long road ahead. The international community will need to remain there for many years.

Given this, it was unwise for the United States to propose a sharp reduction in its funding of the peacekeeping effort in the budget request for 2008. Fortunately, congressional appropriators have thus far seen through the wildly unrealistic reasoning that Liberia's own forces would be up and running quickly and are rejecting the proposed cut.

The United States, which has outsourced the job of training the proposed 2,000-person army to businesses, can point to a lot of barracks constructed and equipment purchased, at a total cost of about \$20 million over the past two years. But only 165 troops have completed basic training, with another 525 in the process.

A similar lag exists on deploying police. While visiting the capital of Monrovia recently, we could see some of the country's newly trained police, including women, directing traffic. Overall, however, this is a drop in the ocean. The UN mission targeted basic training first, and by June it had 3,522 police on board. But the mission had passed on building the police stations, setting up communications networks, and buying police vehicles, partly because its funds come from slow-to-arrive voluntary contributions. A week ago, only 676 police had been deployed to the country's 15 counties.

These delays in the security sector are disturbing in a country still shattered by civil war. Charles Taylor, the country's president from 1997 to 2003, repressed Liberians while supporting massacre-prone forces in nearly every one of Liberia's neighbors. They in turn financed anti-Taylor rebels. Liberia has now demobilized an estimated 30,000 former military and former rebels, but several thousand former combatants have yet to demobilize and represent a destabilizing force.

Liberia needs the international community to stay engaged. The United States should pony up the needed funding to train the country's new, vetted military. It could also challenge others by making a grant to the UN mission trust fund aimed at improving rule of law - to deploy the police, reform the judiciary, and clean up overcrowded jails. Halfway help, just as the country is making progress, would be a tragic invitation for the chaos to return.

Carolyn Norris is West Africa Project director and Mark L. Schneider is senior vice president of the International Crisis Group.

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