

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



Outreach Coordinator, Patrick Fatoma addressing participants at an outreach event, on Non-Violence Communication. See today's *'Special Court Supplement'* for more photos.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office
as at:**

Monday, 22 September 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Report from The Hague

Friday, 19 September 2008

BBC World Trust
Joseph Cheeseman

The prosecution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in its indictment attributed the atrocities committed by the RUF and the AFRC in Sierra Leone to the support of Former Liberian President Charles Taylor. But Mr. Taylor's defence team tries to shift the blame to other forces like the West African Peace Keeping Force, ECOMOG and the Civil Defence Force known as Kamajors. BBC World Service Trust Joseph Cheeseman reports from The Hague.

The prosecution 41st witness, Alex Bao has described Former RUF Commander, Sam Bockarie alias Mosquito as a vicious killer. But Defence Lawyer Morris Anyah was more interested in the atrocities of ECOMOG and the Kamajors than the atrocities of the AFRC and the RUF. Mr. Anyah questioned the witness about atrocities committed by forces that fought in defence of the Sierra Leonean Government.

Mr. Bao: Yes they did commit atrocities, a lot of atrocities, according to eyewitness accounts.

Mr. Anyah: So you do not consider the burning of the police documents at your police compound an atrocity by the Kamajors?

Mr. Bao: It is indeed.

Mr. Anyah: So that is one atrocity at least we agree on that the Kamajors committed, yes?

Mr. Bao: Yes.

Mr. Anyah: Did ECOMOG commit any atrocities in Kenema during the junta period?

Mr. Bao: Yes, caused by the AFRC and the RUF rebels, yes.

Mr. Anyah: I'm not asking you what the cause was. Answer the first part of the question. Did ECOMOG commit any atrocities in Kenema during the junta period?

Mr. Bao: Yes they did.

Mr. Anyah: Are you aware that ECOMOG used child soldiers in Kenema during the junta period?

Mr. Bao: I never saw them use child soldiers. Never. They were all adults.

Mr. Anyah: But they did commit atrocities, we agree on that?

Mr. Bao: They did yes. It's a war.

Mr. Anyah: That's the point. It is a war. And law and order were in short supply, do you agree Mr. Witness?

Mr. Bao: There was no law and order.

Mr Bao testified to the brutal killing of the Chairman of the Kenema City Council B.S Massaquoi allegedly by Sam Bockarie in 1998. The witness said Mr. Massaquoi and others were branded as Kamajor supporters. He told the court B. S. Massaquoi was stabbed on the back and later found with a cement block lying on the head of his dead body. Mr. Bao said Massaquoi's body was also riddled with bullets. Defence Lawyer Morris Anyah wondered whether the witness had a personal hatred for Sam Bockarie.

Mr. Bao: I have nothing against Mosquito, I like him, he's my brother. But I did not like what he was doing to my people and my country.

Mr. Anyah: You called Mosquito your brother.

Mr. Bao: Yes. He's my brother, Sierra Leonean, I have nothing against him. I just didn't like what he was doing to my people and my country.

Mr. Anyah: You remember what you said yesterday, at the end of the day? You described him yesterday as a vicious killer. Do you stand by that?

Mr. Bao: Yes indeed. He was.

Mr. Anyah: In your estimation, he was not a pleasant fellow, yes?

Mr. Bao: He was not. I said the guy was a vicious killer. How can he be a pleasant fellow?

At the conclusion of Mr. Bao's cross-examination, the prosecution tendered four documents into evidence, but one was objected to by the defence team. The defence objected to the photo copy of the witness' diary containing the accounts of Mr. B. S. Massaquoi's death. The defence team insisted that the prosecution produce the original copy. But the court ruled in favor of the prosecution stating the defence had the option to have objected in their reply to the prosecution's motion on September 12. The prosecution also lost when they objected to an extract showing prior inconsistency on the part of the witness, tendered by defence as exhibit. So on Friday the prosecution lost one motion and the defense lost one

Voice of America

Monday, 22 September 2008

Former Liberian President Taylor's Son's Trial to Begin Monday in Florida

By James Butty
Washington, D.C.

The trial of Roy Belfast, Jr., also known as Chuckie Taylor, son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, is expected to begin Monday in Miami, Florida. At the height of the Liberian civil war, Chuckie Taylor, a U.S. citizen allegedly created and commanded the Anti-Terrorist Unit, his father's notorious personal security force.

But in 2006, a federal grand jury in Miami indicted Chuckie Taylor for participating in the July 2002 torture of a victim in Monrovia. He's charged with one count of torture, one count of conspiracy to commit torture, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. Chuckie Taylor faces up to 47 years in jail if found guilty on all counts.

Theresa Harris is deputy director of the World Organization for Human Rights USA. She told that her organization, as a friend of the court, provided information on what she called the serious international human rights issues involved in the Chuckie Taylor trial.

"The crime of torture in the United States, which is a felony federal crime, was adopted by Congress as a way of implementing the United States' obligation under the Geneva Convention against torture, which is a United Nations treaty. And that treaty requires the United States and all countries that are party to it, that ratified it, they are required among other things to criminalize torture and to prosecute people who are alleged to have committed torture regardless wherever it happened in the world," she said.

Chuckie Taylor is charged with one count of torture, one count of conspiracy to commit torture, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime.

Harris said the charges against Chuckie Taylor are serious and that it is up to the prosecutor to make the charges stick.

"The indictment names several very grave, serious allegations of torture and other atrocities that are listed as quite serious, but it would be up to the U.S. attorney's office to present the evidence during the trial to prove that Chuckie Taylor is responsible for those particular acts of which he is alleged," Harris said.

Because of the fear that U.S. citizens could also be tried in other countries for alleged torture, Harris hoped that the United States would respect the Geneva Convention against torture.

"The reason that we have an international treaty on torture that all countries must themselves respect the prohibition against torture and similarly enforce when other countries don't observe that prohibition. So we do in fact also need to make sure that U.S. officials are also not committing torture at the same time. But it's a universal obligation. But of course what happens in this trial, many people will be looking at it to see how it reflects on the United States' own practices," she said.

Harris said it is possible that witnesses from Liberia could testify because Chuckie Taylor is alleged to have committed his crimes against Liberians.

"It would appear that the victims who are named in the indictment, the specific charges, all happened in Liberia to Liberian citizens. So it's certainly possible that Liberians will be the witnesses. But we don't know yet who the witnesses will be," Harris said.

She said her organization wants to send the message that people who commit human rights abuses should not find safe havens in other countries.

"Our organization is hoping that the U.S. government will uphold its obligation under international law and would set the standards for other countries for ensuring that torturers do not go free, that people who have committed horrible human rights abuses cannot find safe haven in the United States. We hope that other countries will look to that," she said.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 19 September 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Police Crackdown on Rioting Motorcyclists

(The News, National Chronicle, New Democrat)

- The New Democrat reports that Police Thursday sought to bring under control motorcycle drivers posing serious threats to public safety in traffic. Following the imposition of restrictions that would confine commercial motorcycle drivers to their communities, the motorcyclists resorted to violent stone-throwing, injuring one of the police officers and disrupting normal business in some parts of the city.
- The New newspaper said the motorcyclists in the Red Light commercial district took to the streets in protest of a new Transport regulation restricting the motorcyclists' activities in the central parts of Monrovia. This is the second time this week that motorcyclist has taken to the streets. On Monday scores of motorcyclists in Monrovia took to the streets early Monday morning, blocking every junction on principal streets in Central Monrovia.

Audit Report Will Lead to Action against Officials - President Sirleaf Warns

(The News)

- The Liberian Government says it would enforce recommendations contained in this year's Audit report from the General Auditing Commission (GAC). President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said recommendations coming from the GAC will undoubtedly lead to action against officials and other individuals in society. Speaking at the commissioning ceremony of officials of the Anti-corruption Commission Wednesday, the Liberian leader said corruption is a major obstacle to sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development in Liberia.
- The President's statement comes five days after she acknowledged corruption in government and the Liberian society was like a cancer. Addressing a news conference early this week, the President disclosed that there were 50 corruption cases before the Ministry of Justice.

Former Army General Explains Why He Occupied Executive Mansion

(Heritage, The Informer, National Chronicle, New Vision, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The News The Inquirer)

- The media reports that speaking at the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Thematic hearings in Monrovia, Retired General Charles Julu says he took over the Executive Mansion in 1994 to prevent then rebel leader Charles Taylor from taking power. General Julu was the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia during the latter days of the Samuel Kanyon Doe government. He said he took over the Mansion to occupy the vacuum created by the expiration of the mandate of the Interim Government of National Unity. On September 15, 1994, Gen.
- Julu under the banner of the New Horizon for New Direction announced that he had taken over from the Executive Mansion but ECOMOG peacekeeping troops backed by military gunships and artilleries ejected him from the mansion.
- Meanwhile, the News newspaper reports that Retired General Julu, who is accused of committing atrocities prior and during the civil war said he has not killed a dog before saying "God should kill him if he ever killed anyone." He denied allegations that he dumped several hundred children into a well in Nimba County. Mr. Julu also refuted accusation that he buried several children taken from Nimba County in a mass grave on Duport Road.

TRC Hold Hearings for Children in Grand Gedeh County

(Heritage, The Analyst, The Informer)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) today held Thematic Hearing for Children in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. The hearing was held under theme “Children and the Conflict in Liberia: What Does the Future Hold” is aimed at understanding the impact of the conflict and transitional justice mechanisms on the development of Liberian children and their future.
- The TRC says it has already conducted two of three regional public hearings for children in Zwedru and Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The commission said several children who were direct victims of the conflict would testify followed by a panel discussion with commissioners of the TRC.

Senate Asks President Sirleaf to Revoke Certification of Anti-Corruption Commissioner Arkoi

(Heritage, Public Agenda, National Chronicle)

- The Senate has asked President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to revoke the certification of Joseph Arkoi as Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission. This followed a communication by the head of the Senate Committee on Public Corporations and Autonomous Commissions, Senator Jewel Howard Taylor informing the plenary that Mr. Arkoi has not met the requirement for confirmation as he was asked to resign his membership with the Unity Party. According to Senator Taylor, a provision of the anti-corruption Act requires the public resignation of any nominee from his or her political party. The Senate termed Wednesday’s commissioning of Mr. Joseph Arkoi by President Sirleaf as an error.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 8:00 am)*

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

JPC Declines Request to Sit on Email Saga Probe Commission

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) have withdrawn from the commission set up to investigate the email scandal linking the presidency.
- In a letter to Justice Minister Philip Banks, the JPC says it does not possess the capacity required to determine the authenticity of the email exchanges.
- The JPC believes to establish the truth or falsity of the emails requires a sophisticated technical knowledge and high criminal investigative skills.
- The JPC is the second group to withdraw from the investigation.
- Earlier the Press Union of Liberia withdrew its inclusion on grounds that it wanted to remain neutral in the coverage of the investigation.
- The withdrawals now leave the Bar Association and two former investigators as members of the investigative commission.

Government, WFP Launch Urban School Feeding Programme

- A World Food Programme release issued in Monrovia says, Government and the World Food Program have launched the urban school feeding to target 150,000 children.
- According to the UN Food Agency, the targeted children are short of food because of the hike in prices of food.
- Another 4,000 rural school children will continue to benefit from the feeding programme which aims to improve access to primary education through the distribution of daily-cooked meal.
- More than 2,600 government and community primary schools in Liberia would benefit from the feeding program.

Former Executive Mansion Battalion Commander On Why He Occupied Mansion

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

TRC Hears from Children in Grand Gedeh

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Senate Urges President Sirleaf to Revoke Commission Arkoi

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

UNITED NATIONS
MISSION IN LIBERIA



MISSION DES NATIONS UNIES
AU LIBERIA

Sustaining prevailing peace central as Liberia observes International Day of Peace

Monrovia, Liberia – The United Nations, Liberian Government, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and a cross-section of Liberians are commemorating this year's International Day of Peace throughout Liberia with a range of activities that began on Friday 19 September. On Friday, during the main event at the headquarters of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the UN Envoy in Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, and Liberia's Vice President, Joseph N. Boakai, planted trees to symbolize the continuing cooperation between the Government of Liberia and UNMIL to maintain peace in the country.

Recognizing the theme of this year's observance, Peace and Human Rights, the Vice President recalled that "as a nation, we have known war and its attending consequences". Furthermore, he urged all Liberians to "deal with the root causes of conflict to avoid dealing with their costly effects." Mr. Boakai also pointed out that observing the day with the planting of trees was "a reminder of the need to protect the environment".

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Ms. Løj, delivered the Secretary-General's message in which he emphasized the "development emergency" faced by many African countries not on track to reach any of the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary-General's message added that the accomplishment of those goals was essential to the achievement of peace. The Secretary-General also called on world leaders to "join forces against conflict, poverty and hunger, and for all human rights for all".

Among other events held on Friday was a forum in which Liberia's Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice and Inspector-General of Police, among others, discussed the role of the police and military in securing human rights in Liberia. In addition to other issues, they highlighted the need to strengthen the country's prosecutorial capacity to ensure speedy adjudication of cases and to establish a professional standards division in the Liberia National Police (LNP). Among those attending were students, personnel from the New Armed Forces of Liberia and the LNP, and representatives of civil society organizations.

Earlier in the week, a number of Liberian youth participated in a video workshop, which culminated in the production of stories in which they expressed their views on peace and human rights to be sent to CNN's I-report special programming on peace in observance of the Day. Liberian students were also part of a video-conference organized by UN Headquarters in New York and they interacted with counterparts from Afghanistan and Sudan, and with UN Messengers of Peace.

Additional activities took place on Sunday 21 September, including sporting activities in Monrovia organized in conjunction with the NGO Right to Play, the highlight of which was an amputee football game.

The International Day of Peace was established by the General Assembly in 1981, which later fixed the day in 2001 to be observed every year on 21 September as "a day of global ceasefire and non-violence".

UN News Centre

Monday, 22 September 2008

On International Day, UN spotlights link between human rights and peace

21 September 2008 – Teaming up with a range of actors, from artists and students, to cell phone companies and chess enthusiasts, the United Nations is celebrating the International Day of Peace, which this year holds special meaning since 2008 also marks the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“We know that human rights are essential to peace,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message to mark the Day, which is observed every year on 21 September.

“Yet too many people around the world still have their rights violated – especially during and after armed conflict. That is why we must ensure that the rights in the Declaration are a living reality – that they are known, understood and enjoyed by everyone, everywhere,” he stated.

Mr. Ban kicked off this year's celebration of the Day at the traditional peace bell ringing ceremony in New York on Friday, joined by four UN Messengers of Peace. During the event, the Secretary-General sent a text message for peace, as part of a UN campaign that urged cell phone users to compose peace messages to be published on a website and delivered to world leaders gathered for the General Assembly this week.

Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, in his message, said it is fitting that the Day closely coincides with the opening of the body's new session each September. “This is when representatives of the 192 Member States gather to renew their commitment to work together in the quest for world peace, the eradication of poverty and to pursue the progressive advancement of human rights,” he stated.

“We must never delude ourselves, or let others pretend, that peace is merely the absence of war or some exalted state of impassivity,” he added. “World peace will only be achieved through active resistance to all that negates and diminishes human dignity, and waging peace, is therefore, eminently political and oftentimes provocative.”

Noting that this year also marks the 60th anniversary of UN peacekeepers, Mr. D'Escoto urged support for the Organization's efforts to bring calm to conflict-ridden areas and for the over 100,000 soldiers, police and civilians deployed worldwide to keep the peace, prevent conflicts, and safeguard fragile peace processes.

The UN's peace operations around the globe are also commemorating the Day with various activities. For example, children in Naqoura were invited to paint their visions of peace on the walls of the headquarters of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

In Juba, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and its partners are celebrating the Day a photo exhibition entitled “Images of Peace,” focusing on similarities and differences in the cultures of Southern Sudan and aiming to foster better community dialogue and understanding.

Meanwhile, communities across Afghanistan are marking the day with sports events, marches and gatherings, all part of what the UN mission there – known as UNAMA – has described as an “unprecedented” campaign in the run up to the Day. In addition to the many events, teams of health

workers fanned out across the country in the most ambitious Peace Day polio vaccination effort to date, aiming to reach 1.8 million children.

Other UN-organized activities taking place around the world include a peace walk in Accra, an observance in cooperation with Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, a peace bell ceremony in Mexico City, and a traditional UN Cup Chess Festival entitled “sports for peace” in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

In addition, 60 students from Belgrade, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Zagreb are gathering together today in the Austrian capital for a forum entitled "Uniting for Peace," organized by the UN Information Service (UNIS) and the City of Vienna.

News24

Monday, 22 September 2008

SA, Sudan warn of ICC plans

Cape Town - Peace efforts in Sudan's troubled Darfur region could be seriously undermined by the International Criminal Court's plans to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir, South Africa and Sudan warned in a joint statement on Tuesday.

Its release follows talks between President Thabo Mbeki and his Sudanese counterpart on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Mbeki arrived in Sudan on Monday, at the head of a delegation including Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad. The talks ended on Tuesday.

According to the statement, Mbeki was briefed on "the internal situation in Sudan, particularly the situation in Darfur, the indictment of President al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court, the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the situation in Sudan as a whole".

The two sides had agreed that "the approval... of the application by the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor could seriously undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur".

Further, it could undermine the promotion of long-lasting peace and reconciliation in Sudan as a whole and, as a result, "may lead to further suffering of the people of Sudan and greater destabilisation with far-reaching consequences for the country and the region".

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo has asked judges to issue an arrest warrant for al-Bashir, alleging he led a campaign of genocide in Darfur, a charge refuted by the Sudanese president.

Special Court Supplement Last Week's Outreach with Kono Youths in Pictures

