

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



**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:**

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

By *Abdul Karim Koroma*

Representatives from government and civil society organisations met last week at the China House in Freetown to discuss the arms trade treaty.

The consultation was

part of several activities to mark the arms control week of action in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights.

Funding for the consultation was provided by OXFAM-Great Britain

# Civil society, Gov't discuss arms trade treaty

based in Dakar, Senegal.

A release from the Sierra Leone action network on small arms stated that the minister of trade and industry Alimamy Koroma underscored government's commitment to supporting a

strong and legally-binding arms trade treaty by endorsing the final outcome of the document.

"Negotiating a legally-binding international instrument on arms transfer contains strong human rights and humanitarian criteria, such as the proposed international arms trade treaty," the release

stated.

The statement called on government to monitor weapons in the hands of private security agencies and their operatives.

It was geared towards ensuring that military expenditure are transparent and accountable in a bid to forestall solid and off-budget arms transfer practices that

could undermine good governance and foster corruption, the release added.

The statement also urged government to fast-track the enactment of a new fire arms legislation that would be in concert with sub-regional, regional and international instruments.

## BBC World Service Trust

### Report From The Hague

A Pastor of the International Mission Church in Kono District, Sierra Leone began his testimonies Wednesday morning by singing in open court the song he heard from Soldiers of Sierra Leone Army when they overthrew the Tejan Kabba's Government on May 25, 1997. Pastor Samuel Bull, a crime based witness is the prosecution's 44<sup>th</sup> witness to testify against the Former Liberian Leader. Joseph Cheeseman reports.

CHEESEMAN: Pastor Samuel Bull said he cut short a Sunday school lesson he was teaching on May 25, 1997, when the Soldiers of the Sierra Leone Army came towards the church singing, "Hey, hey, any one who says he doesn't want soldiers he will be killed like a chicken".

Pastor Bull said he later heard the Leader of the Revolutionary United Front, RUF, Foday Sankoh on the BBC Focus on Africa urging the RUF Fighters to join the Sierra Leone Army, and that they should no longer refer to themselves as RUF, but as the People's Army.

The witness told the court the People's Army (RUF) and the Soldiers of the Sierra Leone army first demonstrated their looting habit in Koidu Town. He said the RUF and the Sierra Leone Army broke into shops and massively looted goods in those shops.

The pastor said for fear of their lives, he took his wife, his father and his children in to the forest for refuge. He said the RUF invaded the bush in his absence and took hostage, his brother and two other people he referred to as A and B along with their food and clothes. The pastor broke down in tears and drew the attention of the judges when he reflected on how the RUF raped a woman he only referred to as A.

BULL: I said, B told me that they raped A to the extent that she found it difficult to even walk on her feet.

JUDGE: Excuse me Mr. Witness are you all right?

BULL: No.

JUDGE: Now Mr. Witness do you feel able to go on, or would you like a short break?

PROSECUTOR: Your honour the witness has indicated he would like to continue.

JUDGE: That's fine Mr. Witness, you take your time.

CHEESEMAN: Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor is accused of supporting the RUF who allegedly committed sexual violence, abductions, forced labour, enslavement, looting and violence to life in particular cruel treatments against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

Pastor Bull also testified to the killing of six civilians, including a woman who had just given birth to a baby, after 10 days in the Sierra Leonean Town called Mamboma.

BULL: The rebels took a five gallon container having palm oil in it, to go with them. She was carrying it on her head. And as they got up to the hill the woman said that she was tired, and they asked her if indeed she was tired and she said yes, she was tired. And he asked her for the container, and the rebels took it from her, and they said, well because you said you were tired you're not going anywhere further than here, you're going to be here. And they shot the (indistinct) mother in her chest and the baby was strapped on her back so the two of them dropped at the side of the road.

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Bull, the prosecution 44<sup>th</sup> witness told the court that his 65 year-old father was hit on the head three times when the RUF Rebels decided one morning that all civilian men should be wounded on that day. Pastor Samuel Bull is a crime based witness. A crime based witness is one who was on scene when the crimes for which Mr. Taylor is charged were committed or he is a victim of the RUF atrocities

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**24 September 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Liberia's High Court Orders Senate's Leader Reinstated**

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

- The media reports that the Supreme Court of Liberia has instructed members of the Liberian Senate to reinstate suspended President Pro-tempore Isaac Nyenabo to his position with immediate effect. In a mandate issued Tuesday, September 23, 2008, the high court ordered the Liberian Senate to restore Nyenabo's authority pending the determination of a petition filed against them for the unlawful removal of the pro-tempore.
- The Supreme Court mandates the senators concerned which include Lahai Lassana, Abel Momolu Massaley, Jewel Howard-Taylor, Prince Y. Johnson, Adolphus Dolo, Mabutu Nyanpan, Gbezohngar Findley and other senators acting under their control to appear before the full bench of the high court on October 4, 2008.
- The court's mandate issued by the Justice in Chambers Jamesetta Wolokollie directed the senators to file a return to the petition for a writ of prohibition. This action of the court is in reply to a Writ of Prohibition filed by the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) by and thru its acting Chairman J. Hodo Merriam. Senator Nyenabo was recently suspended by a resolution of majority of his colleagues for what they described as "gross administrative ineptitude and political patronage."

**Detained Senator Granted Bail in Murder Trial - But Prosecution Expects**

(Heritage, National Chronicle, The News)

- The Resident Judge of the Criminal Court "B" Kobo Nuta has granted a motion to admit detained Senator Roland Kaine to bail. The senator was indicted in connection with the murder of 14 men who had gone to under brush a farm believed to be owned by Mr. Charles Bennie in Kolleh Town, Timor District, Margibi County.
- Senator Kaine was admitted to bail Tuesday based on a motion filed on September 10, 2008 by his counsels led by Cllr. Francis Garlawolo. Judge Nuta, in his ruling Tuesday, stated that the court's decision to admit the accused to bail is based on the failure of prosecution to produce substantial evidence to link Senator Kaine to the June 7, 2008 Kolleh Town massacre. According to Cllr. Gongloe, the decision of the judge is a great error and not consistent with law. He contended that the judge should have granted an assignment to hear the motion instead of admitting the accused to bail.
- Senator Kaine and 16 others were indicted in connection with the murder of 14 men during a farmland dispute in Kolleh Town, Timor District. Two other bodies were discovered in the river where the killings took place while 16 other persons are still said to be unaccounted for.

**ArcelorMittal Comments on Donation to Legislature – Expects Nothing in Return**

(The Analyst, The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle, The News, Public Agenda)

- ArcelorMittal has clarified that recent donation of 100 vehicles to government was intended to help build its capacity and not to influence its decision towards the company. The company's

Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Joseph Mathew explained that the decision to purchase the vehicles followed a request made by the government. He said ArcelorMittal expects nothing in return from the government contrary to media reports.

- The clarification comes in the wake of media reports that some 100 vehicles given to members of the legislature by the government were meant to influence decision in favour of the company.
- The Analyst reports that Mr. Mathew was speaking Tuesday at Corina Hotel during a farewell luncheon in honour of 22 of the company's local staff who are expected to leave for training in South Africa next week. According to the company, the 22 Liberians selected will undergo training in heavy duty mechanic, locomotive driving, electronics and welding.

### **Liberian Youth Selected Among Elite U.S. Students**

(The News, Public Agenda The Inquirer)

- The Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) in the United States of America has nominated a 14-year old Liberian, Theophilia Watchen Joseph of Johnston High School in Johnston, Rhode Island USA, to attend the National Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for Washington, DC in spring 2009.
- The nomination will allow little Theophilia to join a select group of mostly elite high school students in the United States, that are destined to become future leaders of the USA. This is the second time in less than three years that Theophilia has received a prestigious national award in the USA. In 2005, she was admitted to the United States Achievement Academy National Scholarship Awards Program, a national program which rewards students who have demonstrated exceptional ability, performance and academic skill.

### **Main Opposition Party Demands Explanation over Arrest of Its Official - Police Charges Point to Disorderly Conduct**

(National Chronicle, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Informer)

- In the wake of the alleged flogging and detention of the Assistant Secretary General of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), the Executive Committee of the party is demanding prompt explanation from the Liberian government on the situation.
- Addressing a news conference at its new Headquarters in Sinkor, the Acting Chairman of the CDC, Geraldine Doe-Sheriff said the party would submit a protest letter to Liberia's partners and other relevant authorities on the wave of abuses inflicted upon executives and partisans of the CDC. Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police says it is preparing documents to take the CDC Executive to court for disorderly conduct at the Metro Police station on Ashmun Street.

## **Radio Summary**

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 8:45am)*

#### **Court Grants Motion to Bail Detained Senator**

- Criminal Court 'B' has granted a Defense motion to admit detained Senator Roland Kaine to bail.
- Judge Karboi Nuta ruled Tuesday that the court's decision is based on the fact that the prosecution has not produced any convincing evidence to link Kaine to the June 7 Kolleh Town massacre.
- The Defense argued that its client be admitted to bail because the presumption of his guilt is not evident but Solicitor General Tiawan Gongloe has strongly reacted to the court's decision.
- Cllr. Gongloe described the court's decision as confusing and said the state will take the necessary legal action to counter the move.
- Kaine and 16 others were indicted in connection with the murder of 14 men during a farmland dispute in Kolleh Town, Timor District.
- Two other bodies were discovered in the river where the killings took place while 16 other persons are still said to be unaccounted for.

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

### **Supreme Court Calls for Re-instatement of Suspended President Pro-Tempore**

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

**President Sirleaf nullifies Commissioning of Anti-Corruption Commissioner**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has nullified the commissioning of Joseph Arqui as an anti-corruption commissioner.
- President Sirleaf said Mr. Arqui was commissioned unintentional at a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry.
- The Liberian leader said the unintentional mistake occurred base on information she received prior to the commissioning.
- President Sirleaf's remarks are contained in a letter to the Senate informing the body that the commissioning of Mr. Arqui is invalid.
- State for Presidential Affairs Minister Edward McCain wrote the Senate on behalf of President Sirleaf, who is attending a UN summit in New York.
- The Senate welcomed the letter and instructed that the confirmation of Mr. Arqui should continue.
- Mr. Arqui was earlier asked by the Senate's Public Corporations and Autonomous Commissions Committee to publicly resign his membership with the Unity Party.

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## Associated Press

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

### **Jury selection begins in Taylor torture case**

MIAMI (AP) - Jury selection is under way in Miami for the torture trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor's son.

The case against Charles McArthur Emmanuel marks the first use of a 14-year-old federal law making it a crime for a U.S. citizen to commit torture overseas. Emmanuel, also known as Chuckie Taylor, was born in Boston.

Prosecutors say he joined his father in Liberia in 1997 and led a unit that tortured, intimidated and killed government opponents. Emmanuel has pleaded not guilty.

Jury selection is expected to last several days, with opening statements likely next week.

Also Wednesday, a federal judge rejected a U.S. attempt to close court for testimony of 1 witness who has an undisclosed psychological problem.

## Miami Herald

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/southflorida/story/698903.html>

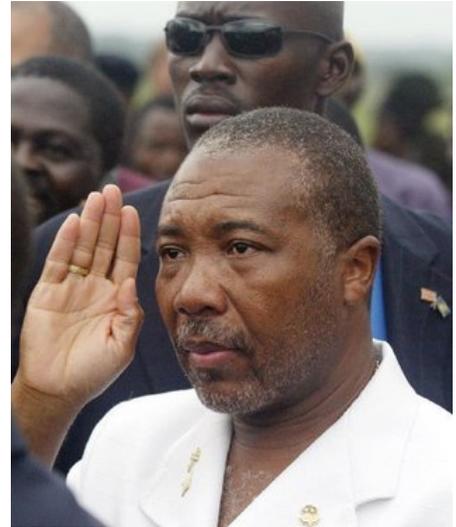
### First-of-its-kind torture trial to start in Miami

The trial of Charles 'Chuckie' Taylor Jr. marks the first U.S. prosecution of torture committed in a foreign country.

Boston native. Orlando juvenile delinquent. Liberian security-force boss. Accused torturer.

That last description has made Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr. the sole defendant in an unprecedented federal trial on torture charges. Jury selection is scheduled to start Wednesday in Miami.

Taylor -- son and namesake of the former Liberian president who is now standing trial in The Hague, Netherlands, for alleged war crimes -- is accused of committing atrocities as head of an armed security unit known as "Demon Forces." Formally known as the Antiterrorist Unit, it provided security for the African president and put down rebel groups from 1999-2003.



If convicted of the horrific allegations -- burning victims' flesh with molten candle wax, shocking their genitals with an electrical prod, ordering the beheading of one victim with a knife -- the 31-year-old Taylor would spend the rest of his life in prison.

The criminal case marks the first U.S. prosecution of torture committed in a foreign country.

Taylor was charged under a 1994 law that permits the federal government to prosecute anyone suspected of carrying out torture outside the United States as long as the suspect is a U.S. citizen, legal resident or is present in this country, regardless of nationality. Taylor, a U.S. citizen, was arrested on false passport charges when he arrived in Miami from Trinidad in March 2006.

"There is no refuge when you commit these types of crimes, and that sends a signal that no one is above the law," said Elise Keppler, senior counsel for the International Justice Program at New York based-Human Rights Watch.

She said Taylor's trial is "incredibly significant," but its relevance would carry greater weight if the U.S. government pursues other, similar torture prosecutions.

What makes Taylor's case so internationally prominent is that no U.S. administration has ever enforced the torture law -- until now.

Such cases are fraught with jurisdictional, legal and political issues. Among them: the ongoing controversy over harsh U.S. interrogation practices approved by the Bush administration in the war on terror.

In the Taylor case, which has taken nearly two years to reach trial, U.S. District Judge Cecilia Altonaga has generally sided with the government in key motions.

Early on, she ruled the torture law passed by Congress was constitutional. She denied defense access to immigration records of the seven Liberian victims cited in the indictment, whom the defense has not had the opportunity to interview.

For now, she has also protected the identity of those victims -- though the prosecution's bid to close off the courtroom during part of the testimony of a witness is still pending.

But Altonaga hasn't always ruled for the government. She sided with Taylor's court-appointed lawyers in their bid to present evidence of the living and economic conditions that existed in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the time frame of the alleged torture.

In doing so, she cited the defense's rationale for bringing up such evidence at trial: "Evidence of motive . . . will consist in part of the horrible economic conditions that faced these witnesses on a daily basis," wrote Assistant Federal Public Defender Miguel Caridad. "Might they exaggerate or fabricate torture at the hands of the defendant in order to seek and obtain asylum in the West? The question answers itself."

Prosecutors in the U.S. attorney's office and Justice Department questioned that relevance, but the judge disagreed with them.

In the indictment, Taylor is charged with conspiracy, torture and carrying a firearm during a violent crime.

The conspiracy's goal was to "strengthen the power and authority" of his father's presidency and to "eliminate actual and perceived opponents and threats to his administration by means of torture," according to the indictment.

The indictment accuses the younger Taylor of using Liberia's Antiterrorist Unit to seize, imprison, interrogate and mistreat those opposed to his father's government "by acts specifically intended to inflict severe physical pain and suffering."

The case has captured the interests of an eclectic group of media -- from The Guardian in England to Rolling Stone Magazine. The latter recently chronicled Taylor's unusual journey from Orlando punk with a rap sheet to accused Liberian security thug. The magazine also noted Taylor's affinity for rap.

When he was arrested at Miami International Airport in 2006, court records show that federal authorities found some of his rap lyrics about the Demon Forces:

"We ain't takin' no slack/y'all try to tackle mine/layin' bodies in stacks" and "take this for free/six feet under is where you gonna be."

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

### French author in dock over Rwanda

A prominent French writer, Pierre Pean, is on trial in Paris accused of inciting racial hatred in a book on the Rwandan genocide. Mr Pean wrote that the Tutsis had a culture of lies and deceit, and this had somehow spread to the Hutus.

He said it made investigating Rwanda "an almost impossible task". Some 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 1994.

A French rights group, SOS Racisme, filed the lawsuit against Mr Pean.



Pierre Pean has previously written books about French politics

The case against him is backed by the public prosecutor. It centres on four pages in Mr Pean's book *Noires Fureurs, Blancs Menteurs* (Black furies, white liars), published in 2005.

In remarks broadcast on French radio on Wednesday, Mr Pean said he "wrote a book on lies, misinformation, which were, I believe, conducted through extremely elaborate methods, whereby a dictatorial regime wanted people to believe in lies".

An investigative journalist, Mr Pean wrote a bestseller about former French President Francois Mitterrand, among other works.

### France-Rwanda tensions

Historians, other experts and politicians, including former foreign minister Hubert Vedrine, are due to testify this week. The verdict is expected at a later date.

SOS Racisme president Dominique Sopo said that "when you are aware what cliches can trigger in terms of killings, racism and confrontation, especially in that country, it seems to me that this particular issue greatly disturbs those who went through such drama and who prefer not to go through it again".



France has consistently denied any responsibility for the genocide, rejecting claims by the Rwandan government that French officials played an active role in it. Hutu militias carried out mass slaughter in just 100 days

An independent Rwandan commission said France had been aware of preparations for the genocide and helped train the ethnic Hutu militia.

The two countries have had a frosty relationship since 2006, when a French judge implicated Rwandan President Paul Kagame in the downing in 1994 of then-President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane - an event widely seen as triggering the killings. President Kagame has always denied the charge.

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

### Rwandan lawyer sentenced to life

An ex-Rwandan deputy prosecutor accused of participating in the genocide of 1994 has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Rwandan tribunal.

Simeon Nshamihigo was arrested in 2001 while working as a defence investigator at the tribunal under an assumed name. He was identified by a witness at another trial taking place at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Tanzania.



Many of those responsible for the genocide have yet to face justice

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 100 days in 1994. Nshamihigo's lawyer says he will appeal against the sentence.

The former prosecutor of Cyangugu province had pleaded not guilty to four charges including ordering the killing of a priest at a roadblock and taking part in a church massacre.

He was also said to have given Interahamwe members food and beers for participating in the slaughter.

The judges found that he also attended meetings where massacres were planned "especially the transfer of Tutsi refugees to the Kamarampaka stadium and the subsequent removal of some of them who were killed", an ICTR statement said.

“ He exhibited zeal in the perpetration of these grave crimes ”

ICTR statement

"Among the aggravating factors in this case, the Chamber notes that Simeon Nchamihigo, as a deputy prosecutor of Cyangugu Prefecture, was in a prominent public position of trust; yet he exhibited zeal in the perpetration of these grave crimes," it said.

Since The ICTR was set up in 1997 to try the most high-profile genocide cases 28 have been completed and five people have been acquitted.

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

### Rights court 'yet to start work'

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, set up 10 years ago, has yet to hear a single case, according to campaigners at Minority Rights Group.

The report by the group says this is despite human rights crises including Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe.

It blames a lack of political will on the continent. Only 24 of 53 African Union member countries have ratified the protocol creating the court in 1998.

According to the MRG report being launched in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, an effective pan-African court is crucial because minorities and indigenous peoples often fail to receive justice from national legal systems.

"Africa's peoples deserve better. If human rights on the continent are to come of age, the court must start its work without any further delays," the report's author George Mukundi said in a statement.

No case has yet been heard although judges have been appointed, the rules of procedure agreed and a location established in Arusha, Tanzania. The group also blames bureaucracy for the slow start.



MRG says there have been major human rights crises in the last decade