

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



Congratulations to Fatmata Jalloh of the Special Court's Travel Unit, who was married on Saturday to Sulaiman Bah

**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:**

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

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

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Charlestaylortrial.org

Monday, 1 December 2008

### **Former RUF Signal Commander Dauda A Fornie (DAF) Commences His Testimony**

10:00am: The prosecution today called the 84th witness in the trial of Charles Taylor. The witness, Dauda A Fornie (DAF) is a former RUF signal commander. DAF, as he was commonly called by his RUF colleagues also carried the alias Blue Diamond. He said that he was captured by the RUF at age 16 in 1991 while returning to his boarding school from holidays. He said that he was trained in signal communications by the NPFL Signal Unit in the Liberian provincial city of Tubmanburg, in Bomi County. He said that the first overall Signal Commander for the RUF was a Liberian named CO. Nyaa.

The witness said that he was in Tubmanburg in 1992 when RUF and NPFL fighters withdrew from the city and moved to the city of Kakata in Margibi County. The witness said he was in Kakata when the NPFL launched Operation Octopus in Monrovia. He said that during the said Operation Octopus, Mr. Taylor and Foday Sankoh made joint visits to the frontlines in Monrovia on a regular basis.

In describing the relationship between Mr. Taylor and Foday Sankoh, the witness said that the two men had a cordial relationship and that in mid 1992, Mr. Taylor was regularly informed about RUF operations in Sierra Leone through high frequency radio.

The witness explained that in 1992, when the RUF attempted to cut-off the supply route of the Sierra Leone arms on the Bo-Kenema highway, the army pushed them out of Sierra Leone into Liberia. He described various NPFL units which provided support to the RUF when they came under attacks from enemy forces. Some of the groups mentioned were Zimbabwe, Special Task Force, SS Corpra, Death Squad, Black Gadaffa and Scorpion. He said that when the RUF retreated to Liberia in 1992, these groups reinforced them so that they would attack the enemy and cross back into Sierra Leone. Making special emphasis on the Special Task Force, the witness said that the group was comprised of purely Liberians.

Speaking of radio communications between the RUF and Mr. Taylor, the witness said he was present when they sent a message from the RUF frontline to Liberia that the enemies had attacked Pujehun District in Sierra Leone and were advancing towards the Bo Waterside on the Sierra Leone/Liberian border. The witness said he was at Bomi Hills in Liberia at this time.

When asked about code names used by various commanders in the RUF and NPFL, the witness said that Mr. Taylor was called EBONY, Foday Sankoh was called TOYOTA and Gen. De Gbon was called ENERGY. Speaking of various call signs, he said that those in Pendembu were 35, and Mr. Taylor's radio station was 3 Top at a particular point in time. He said that the code names were not static as they changed with time.

The witness is set to continue his testimony tomorrow. Court adjourned for the day.

## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 1 December 2008

### Report from The Hague

As the Prosecution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone closes in on the conclusion of its side of Charles Taylor's trial, it has embarked on launching its last bit of evidence against Charles Taylor from the point of views of insider witnesses. After a Liberian insider witness, a former officer of the Liberian Special Security Service, left the stand last week, the Prosecution has brought another insider witness, a former Signal Commander of the RUF, this time a Sierra Leonean. BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah reports

FORNAH: Smiling and confidently gesticulating as though he was providing a lecture, the former RUF Signal Commander testified that the relationship between the Charles Taylor's NPFL and Foday Sankoh's RUF was cordial.

Dauda Fonnie alias Blue Diamond told the Court when the RUF forces attempted to cut the supply route of the Sierra Leonean Army on the Bo- Kenema Highway in 1991, the Army pushed them out of Sierra Leone into Liberia.

He said NPFL units identified as Zimbabwe, Special Task Force, SS Corpra, Death Squad, Black Gadafa and Scorpion went to the aid of the RUF. Dauda, who is a member of the Mende ethnic group in Sierra Leone, is testifying in Krio so he's being interpreted.

FONNIE: They were going to reinforce the RUF so that the RUF would be able to repel the enemies and cross over into Sierra Leone.

COUNSEL: Mr. Witness, you've also referred to several units that were involved in this reinforcement. One of these units you've just said was the Special Task Force unit.

FONNIE: The unit from which reinforcements used to come to go and flush the enemies back into Sierra Leone so that the RUF would be able to re-enter Sierra Leone and continue the war.

COUNSEL: Now the Special Task Force unit, do you know the composition of this unit in terms of its nationality?

FONNIE: They were purely Liberians.

FORNAH: The former RUF Signal Commander said the NPFL Signal Unit in the Liberian provincial city of Tubmanburg, in Bomi County, trained him in signal communications. He said the first overall Signal Commander of the RUF was a Liberian named C.O. Nyan.

Dauda told the Judges Mr. Charles Taylor was regularly informed about developments at the RUF war front in Sierra Leone in the mid-1992 through high frequency radio communication.

FONNIE: I was there at one point in time when the message came from the front line the Pujehun area to [Jibong] that the enemies – that is the government troops, the Sierra Leone government troops – had crossed the bridge again and that they were advancing. They had come past Bo Waterside. They were advancing toward, they were in the core area, and I was there when General [Jibong] sent that message to Ebony.

COUNSEL: At this time, while you were in [Bomi] Hills, can you remember some of the code names of some of the commanders?

FONNIE: Yes. Mr. Taylor, we used to call him Ebony. Foday Sankoh was Toyota. General [Jibong] was Energy. For some of the call signs, those who were in Pendembu, they were three-five or thirty five. Mr. Taylor's radio station was Treetop at a point in time. But really, the code names were not static. They changed with time.

The insider witness testified that in the late 1992, RUF and NPFL forces withdrew from Tubmanburg and moved to the city of Kakata in Margibi County.

Dauda recalled he was in Kakata when NPFL launched operation Octopus in Monrovia. The former RUF Signal Commander told the Court during the Operation Octopus, Mr. Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh visited the frontline in Monrovia regularly.

The Prosecution is expected to continue with the direct examination on Tuesday of Dauda Fonnies, who said he captured by the RUF at age 16 on his way from holiday.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
1 December 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Liberia Tightening Screw on Corruption**

(Daily Observer)

- The Ministry of Finance (MOF) has begun a series of monthly interactions with comptrollers and procurement directors of government ministries and agencies. The monthly interactions are intended to strengthen government's position in the fight against corruption.
- There have been allegations of corruption in the media following findings from several audits conducted by the General Auditing Commission linking the heads of some government entities.
- There are also speculations of an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Government supposedly owing to corruption. President Sirleaf was recently quoted in the press as saying she was reviewing audit reports submitted to her for prompt action which includes dismissals, prosecutions and the launch of further investigations into claims of corruption as contained in the findings of the GAC audit reports.

**Fleeing Public Official Prevented from Travelling – Accused of stealing over US\$200,000**

(New Democrat)

- [Sic:] An Official at the Ministry of Health in charge of its "incentive" section was dragged from the plane at the Roberts International Airport as he sought to leave the country for allegedly swindling over US\$200,000 of money intended for rural health workers, airport and other sources said. Sources said Saturday that the official, Mr. Emmanuel Bropleh, the Health Ministry's Incentive Coordinator, had allegedly stolen the money and was leaving the country, probably for the United States of America. But his plan, Health Ministry sources said, was aborted when security officers and fellow workers who had knowledge of the scheme leaked the information.
- Corruption in both the public and private sectors is a major challenge facing the Liberian Government. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is battling the menace head-on. She said in a recent interview with a local daily that the government will take steps and that some of these actions would include the freezing of assets of officials implicated in stealing public funds, along with prison terms.
- She said a fast-track court, free from long legal delays in hearing cases, would come into action. "I will act", the President said, but admitted that stealing state funds is an endemic and systemic affair that has permeated every level of society, adding that, "goat eats where you tie it" mentality permeates all sectors of the society.

**Liberia Observes World AIDS Day**

(Heritage, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The News)

- Liberia today joined other nations worldwide to observe World AIDS Day. The media reported on activities marking the observance of the Day which was declared by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as a working holiday in Liberia. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country has been put at 5.9 percent. This year's World AIDS Day was celebrated in Liberia under the theme: "Stop AIDS; Keep the Promise."

**UNMIL Force Commander Links Liberia's Stability to Future of Sierra Leone, Region**

(The Monitor, The Informer and Public Agenda)

- UNMIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. A.T.M. Zahirul Alam says the role of UNMIL in consolidating peace and stability in Liberia would positively impact on the future of Sierra Leone and the entire region. The Force Commander made the statement in Freetown, Sierra Leone where he, on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj, awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 250 Mongolian soldiers. The Mongolian soldiers are providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

## **UN Moves to Support Sports in Liberia**

(The Informer)

[Sic] The Liberian Ministry of Youth and Sports received a boost when the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) presented a large quantity of assorted sporting materials to assist the Ministry to conduct the 2008/2009 National County Sporting Meet. UNMIL Director of Mission Support, Mr. Stephen Lieberman, presented the sporting materials to the Ministry, at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in the Monrovia suburb of Paynesville. Handing over the sporting materials to officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr. Lieberman said, "Sport transcends boundaries and brings communities together across ethnicity, religion and political divide in Liberia." Reminding Liberians of the profound historic role that sport has played in consolidating peace, he expressed optimism that sports will be used as a tool to achieve lasting peace and development.

## **Radio Summary**

**Local Media-Radio VERITAS** (News monitored today at 9:45 pm)

### **ECO-Bank Executive in the Country Following Theft at the institution**

- [SIC:] Reports say the regional Director of ECOBANK responsible for West and East Africa, Albert Erskine is in the country amidst reports of a "major" theft at the bank.
- Mr. Erskine arrived in the country at the weekend to launch an internal investigation into the theft. Last week, the media reported that US\$500,000 was stolen from the ECO Bank-Liberia vault but the Managing Director Morinike Adepaju clarified that only US\$50,000 was stolen.

**STAR RADIO** (News monitored today at 9:00 am)

### **Five Former Transitional Officials Due to appear in Court Monday**

- Five former Transitional Government officials are expected in court on today, Monday.
- The five include former Transitional Chairman, Gyude Bryant and former Speaker Edwin Snowe.
- The others are Bomi County Senator Richard Devine, Siaka Sheriff and Andy Quamie
- They are accused of "stealing" nearly a million United States dollars from the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company during the transitional regime.
- The five have persistently denied any financial wrongdoing.

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

### **Government Confirms that Over 60 Corruption Cases Awaits Prosecution**

- The government said it has over 60 corruption related cases at the Justice Ministry.
- Information Minister Dr. Laurence Bropleh said the cases are being reviewed to be forwarded to court.
- Minister Bropleh said government is trying to gather sufficient evidence to ensure it wins cases taken to court.
- The sixty corruption related cases including some current Government officials.
- The Information Minister said consultations are being held with the Justice Ministry and the Chief Justice to fast track corruption cases.

### **Two-Week Media Training for Female Journalists Opens in Monrovia**

- A two-week media training for 12 Liberian female journalists gets underway today in Monrovia.
- The German Federal Foreign Office is organizing the training under the theme: "Empowerment of Media Women in post conflict Liberia".

# Human Rights Watch

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

## International Legal Standards on Child Soldiers

In the late 1990s a strong international trend developed to raise the minimum age for military service to 18. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (Convention No. 182), adopted by the International Labour Organization in 1999-and ratified by the government of Nepal in 2002-prohibits the forced recruitment of children under age 18 for use in armed conflict as one of the worst forms of child labor.<sup>[118]</sup> Nepal is also a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 and entered into force in 2002. The protocol raised the standards set in the Convention on the Rights of the Child by establishing 18 as the minimum age for any conscription or forced recruitment or direct participation in hostilities.

The protocol explicitly addresses the conduct of non-state armed forces. Article 4 states that "armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a state should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of eighteen."<sup>[119]</sup>

Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which applies during non-international armed conflicts (civil wars), prohibits states and non-state armed groups from recruiting or using children under the age of 15 in armed conflict.<sup>[120]</sup> Furthermore, such recruitment is identified as a war crime in the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC).<sup>[121]</sup> In July 2006, after the success of the Jana Andolan, Nepal's parliament passed a resolution urging the government to accede to the Rome Statute, though the accession has not yet taken place.<sup>[122]</sup>

The prohibition on recruiting and using children as soldiers is broader than just children engaged in combat duties and includes children in combat-support and other related functions. The authoritative Capetown Principles and Best Practices define a child soldier as any person under age 18 who is "part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or group in any capacity, including but not limited to cooks, porters, messengers and those accompanying such groups, other than purely as family members. It does not, therefore, only refer to a child who is carrying or has carried arms."<sup>[123]</sup>

The ICC statute makes clear that individual criminal liability also extends beyond the use of children as armed combatants. Under the ICC, the war crime of recruiting or using child soldiers

[c]over[s] both direct participation in combat and also active participation in military activities linked to combat such as scouting, spying, sabotage and the use of children as decoys, couriers or at military checkpoints. It would not cover activities clearly unrelated to the hostilities such as food deliveries to an airbase or the use of domestic staff in an officer's married accommodation. However, use of children in a direct support function such as acting as bearers to take supplies to the front line, or activities at the front line itself, would be included <sup>[124]</sup>

The Convention on the Rights of the Child requires the government to take "all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict," and to take "all appropriate measures" to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children who have been victim to armed conflicts.<sup>[125]</sup> Article 6(3) of the Optional Protocol provides that a state "shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons within their jurisdiction recruited or used in hostilities contrary to the present Protocol are demobilized or otherwise released from service," and "shall, when necessary, accord to such persons all appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and their social reintegration."<sup>[126]</sup>

As a state party to ILO Convention 182, which defines the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict as one the worst forms of child labor, the government of Nepal is obliged to "provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social reintegration, ensure access to free basic education, and wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training, for all children removed from the worst forms of child labour."<sup>[127]</sup> As we discuss above, the government of Nepal has failed in this important regard, even after the ceasefire.

## The Jordan Times

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

<http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=12514>

### **Good tidings**

The UN special tribunal mandated to try people assumed to have been involved in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri is set to start work on March 1 next year.

The international court will be the first to try a crime described as “terrorist” by the UN. While other special tribunals have dealt with war crimes and crimes against humanity, like in Sierra Leone or Cambodia, it will be the first time that international justice tackles a political crime that targeted a specific person.

It has taken the UN many years to prepare the groundwork for the trial, pending the completion of the investigation of the case. Hariri was assassinated, together with 22 others, in Beirut on February 14, 2005. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution establishing the court in May 2007.

Much precious time was spent, or rather wasted, before enabling this special international-Lebanese tribunal to start its proceedings, but as the saying goes, better late than never.

Now the day of judgement is near, so the file on this heinous crime can be closed and the truth can become public knowledge. It will heal wounds and deep-seated rivalries and, hopefully, it will set the stage for genuine national reconciliation.

To get the trial started in earnest, there was no doubt need for not only proper and full investigation but also for preparing the political groundwork and reaching the needed “understandings”.

Bringing this case to a closure will go a long way towards stabilising Lebanon. It will also send the signal that the rule of law can, and does, settle disputes and that no crime can go unpunished.

As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon put it, “it is my belief that the impending start of the special tribunal will send a strong signal that the government of Lebanon and the United Nations remain committed to ending impunity in Lebanon.”

Lebanon has made great strides towards stabilising its situation, especially after it obtained diplomatic recognition from neighbouring Syria. Internal reconciliation is proceeding well and there is every hope that Lebanon will go back to being a tolerant, liberal country.

## The New Vision (Uganda)

Friday, 28 November 2008

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/661871>

### **ICC lawyers to help Uganda on Joseph Kony**

By Ganzi Muhanguzi

TWO American lawyers formerly working for the International Criminal Court and other experts on war crimes are in the country to help Uganda in implementing the key aspects of the Juba agreement on accountability and reconciliation.

Michael Newton, a professor at Vanderbilt University Law School and his colleague, Michael Scharf, are part of a team of experts from Public International Law and Policy Group in the country at the invitation of the Government.

The group is set to provide technical assistance to the justice, law and order sector in designing a traditional justice system, in a project funded by USAID.

Ruth Kirinda, an official at USAID, disclosed that the project, code named Incentivising peace in Uganda: Promoting accountability and reconciliation will include building the capacity of Uganda's justice policy makers for drafting legislation related to High Court's war crimes division, traditional justice mechanisms as well as reconciliation.

"The project demonstrates the continued partnership between the United States Government and Uganda to promote sustainable peace," Kirinda said.

Lord's Resistance Army chief, Joseph Kony is expected to sign a peace deal to end the two-decade war in the north today.

Newton, who was part of every ICC action for the last decade, including the trials of former Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic and Liberia's Charles Taylor, says Uganda's law sector has a huge task to restore peace. "Uganda has taken up a great task of peace and reconciliation with the trial of war crimes," he said.