

**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:

Thursday, 11 June 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

International News

Pre-Defence Conference for the Commencement of the Defence Case / <i>Charletaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 3-5
Remarks by Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo / <i>ISRIA</i>	Page 6
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 7-9
Special Tribunal for Lebanon Amends Some Rules of Procedure and Evidence / <i>Naharnet.Com</i>	Page 10
Annan Gives Kenya Court Deadline / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 11

Charletaylortrial.org

Tuesday, 9 June 2009

Pre-Defence Conference for the Commencement of the Defence Case

9:30am: On Monday June 8, 2009, the Trial Chamber II of the Special Court for Sierra Leone hearing the Charles Taylor case held a Pre-Trial Conference to discuss matters relating to the commencement of Mr. Taylor's defence which is set for June 29, 2009.

After parties for Prosecution and Defence announced their respective representations, Presiding Judge Richard Lussick asked whether anybody wanted to mention any new matter before dealing with items on the anenda for the pre-trial conference. Defence Counsel for Mr. Taylor Courtney Griffiths informed the court that the Rule 73 motion that was earlier filed by the Defence was incomplete and that his team intended to file a complete version with exhibits as soon as possible. He said that the exhibits pertinent to the commencement of the Defence Case will be filed.

Justice Lussick then went through the following as list of agenda items for the conference and asked for defence response to each item.

1. Length of Defence Opening Statement

Defence Counsel Griffiths responded that the defence opening statement will not last longer than the Prosecution's opening statement that was delivered by the Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp at the start of the trial.

2. Defence Access to the Accused during his Testimony.

To this, Prosecution Counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis stated that as a general rule, once a witness commences his testimony in court, he should have no access to either party (prosecution or defence) but that this should be related with accused person's right to have access to his counsel during the trial. She informed the court that she was in possession of an ICTY rulling which laid guidelines for such a scenario and was willing to share it with the court.

In response, Mr. Griffiths said that in most domestic jurisdictions, there should be no access to the accused once he becomes a witness in his own trial but that this case should be treated differently taking into account the circumstances in this case. He said there was need to take note that the defence investigations are still ongoing and that counsel will need advice from the accused on some witnesses. Mr Griffiths said that there was need for:

- a. Mr. Taylor to have access to all defence staff in order to make progress with his case. These, he said will relate to matters outside his testimony, and
- b. He should have access to defence staff in relation to his testimony as far as content and length are concerned. He said that Taylor should be given all necessary assistance and that the accused will need to be in touch with some witnesses.

Ms. Hollis replied that she if the accused had access to counsel and witnesses during his testimony, that should be a suitable area of cross-examination in order to determine what his conversations with those witnesses are.

Defence counsel Griffiths objected to this, arguing that this will breach legal professional privilege. Ms. Hollis also responded that if there was any contact with the accused, then the ICTY case supports cross-examination. Defence Counsel Griffiths in turn said that he found Ms. Hollis's position very offensive as an officer of the Court to suggest that counsel might try to influence what the accused will say in his testimony, to which Ms. Hollis pointed that during the presentation of the Prosecution's case, Defence Counsel suggested on many occasions that the Prosecution had told the witnesses to tell lies.

3 and 4. Defence to provide one month in advance list of witnesses to be called for each calendar month and the language in which they will testify.

Defence Counsel Griffiths responded that the list and language of testimony be provided two weeks before the testimony, to which Ms. Hollis replied that it will be necessary to have one month for the list of witnesses and two weeks for the language in which they will testify.

5. The length of trial sessions and the availability of the ICC Court Room.

Presiding Judge Lussick told the parties that he has been informed by the Registry that the ICC was asking for the use of the Court Room for two weeks, starting on October 4, 2009. He said that it would therefore make sense for the Taylor trial to take the summer recess of three weeks within that period, starting on October 5.

Ms. Hollis said that she wanted the following two issues added to the agenda items:

1. The time estimate for the accused's testimony, and
2. Clarity on whether said estimate will be only for direct examination

Ms. Hollis also said that reading from the defence list of 227 witness who should testify for Mr. Taylor, the following issues were unclear:

- Testimony of the two expert witnesses
- That four numbers were missing from the witness chart
- That 5 witness summaries were worded the same
- That there is no time estimate for about 40 witnesses
- That the defence had stated that the defence case would last for 348 trial days and she wanted to know whether this was just for direct examination or whether it included cross-examination
- Which witnesses are core and which are back-up witnesses
- Clarity of the names of 4 former African leaders who should testify for Mr. Taylor
- Concerns about "Senior ECOWAS Officials", "High Ranking Members of the UN" and whether these had asked for protective measures that their names have not been disclosed
- That the witness summaries are inadequate
- That three witnesses seem to give opinion evidence and should be more suited as expert witnesses

In response, Mr. Griffiths said that the testimony of the accused should last for 6-8 weeks, including both direct and redirect examination.

On the time length for the testimony of defence witnesses, he said that the estimate is for direct examination and that the defence will be providing a list of additional witnesses to complete the total number of witnesses that will likely testify for Mr. Taylor. He agreed that the original filing had some defects because the defence wanted to meet the deadline that was set by the Court. He said that Defence will do a better filing soon.

Justice Lussick told counsel on both sides that these are matters that can be better settled between the parties. He said if the parties could not reach agreement on these issues, then they should ask the Court for help.

Asked whether all the 227 witnesses are core witnesses, Mr. Griffiths said that it is unlikely to call all those witnesses on the list to testify but that the defence will be screening the list and selecting those who will testify. He said that the Defence will look into the issues raised such as the issue of expert witnesses and make clarifications to them. Justice Sebuntinde told Mr. Griffiths that the language in which witnesses will testify should also be made clear. Mr. Griffiths responded that the defence will address that as well.

The Court took a brief adjournment and upon resuming, Presiding Judge Richard Lussick made the following orders:

1. That the Court will take a summer recess on October 5 2009 for a period of three weeks
2. Procedural matters can be settled between the two parties and that if matters are out of their reach, they can apply to the Court for an order on the issue.
3. That the defence should provide a witness order, language of testimony and anticipated exhibits that the witness will use two weeks before the witness's testimony

Justice Lussick also asked the parties whether there was a need for a status conference may be a week or so before the commencement of the Defence Case on June 29. Ms. Hollis responded that there was a need for such a status conference and ideally, that should take place on Friday the 19 or Monday the 22 of June 2009. Mr. Griffiths said that the defence would prefer to have the said conference on Monday June 22.

June 22 2009 was scheduled as the date for the Status Conference before the commencement of the Defence case.

Mr. Griffiths asked that the submission of the final list of witnesses be delayed until the end of the week so that issues raised by the prosecution will be addressed.

Ms. Hollis had no objection to this.

Court adjourned and will resume for a Status Conference on Monday June 22, 2009.

ISRIA

Monday, 8 June 2009

Remarks by Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, US Alternate Representative for Political Affairs, on the situation in Sierra Leone, in the Security Council Chamber, June 8, 2009

Thank you Mr. President.

...Second, we would like to acknowledge the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As the court looks to the conclusion of the Charles Taylor trial and to the final disposition of appeals for all cases, the United States fully supports the court's efforts to transfer its institutional knowledge to Sierra Leone authorities as described in the Secretary-General's report. We believe it important to Sierra Leone's ongoing democratic maturation that all the lessons of the past be fully absorbed and the Special Court has much to offer in this regard.

Third, I would like to refer to one aspect of UNIPSIL's mandate, as laid out in Security Council resolution 1829, that "emphasizes the need for the United Nations system to support and cooperate fully with UNIPSIL." We welcome in this regard the finalization of the UNIPSIL and UN Country Team's "Joint Vision" strategy as a proposed blueprint for the UN family's future involvement in peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. We look forward to its careful consideration by the Peacebuilding Commission on June 10th.

Mr. President,

We are well aware the many risks that face Sierra Leone as it works towards lasting peace. In conclusion, I wish to touch on one in particular -- drug trafficking. We note with concern the increasing reports of West Africa being used as a transshipment avenue for illegal narcotics trade. In this regard, we welcome the important steps the government of Sierra Leone has made to combat drug trafficking in its territory. The recent convictions of 18 people for smuggling more than 700 kilograms of cocaine into the country send a strong message to drug traffickers: Sierra Leoneans will not permit their country to be a haven for drug criminals. We also welcome UNIPSIL's work to strengthen the Joint Drug Interdiction Task Force.

Thank you Mr. President.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 June 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor 'converts to Judaism'

By Haaretz Service

The Jewish World – 10 June 2009 - Former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is on trial in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity, has reportedly decided to convert to Judaism.

One of Taylor's wives told BBC radio that the former warlord, the first African dictator to appear before the international tribunal, "has decided to become a Jew. And he wants to follow the true religion according to him. He wants to know deeply about God."

Liberian Dictator Taylor discovers Judaism

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- June 9, 2009 - Former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor has decided to convert to Judaism, one of his wives told the BBC.

Taylor, who is set to go on trial for war crimes in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, apparently discovered Judaism in prison in The Hague.

"He's now a Jew. He's practicing Judaism," Victoria Taylor told BBC Radio June 2 after a three-week visit with her husband. "When he got to The Hague, he got to know that he really, really wanted to be a Jew, wanted to convert to Judaism."

Victoria Taylor said her husband "does believe in Christ," and that "he hasn't rejected Christianity. He has always been a Christian. He just decided to become a Jew. He wants to follow the two religions."

Local Media – Newspaper

President Sirleaf Makes New Appointments in Government

(Heritage, The Analyst, The Inquirer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf carried out her much anticipated reshuffle on Tuesday with no changes at the upper echelon of her cabinet. The appointments were limited to junior and immediate deputies and affected a number of government ministries, public corporations and political subdivisions. Judging from media reports including public sentiments, the new appointments are mostly a shift in positions with few junior ministers on board. Many people had thought that the President would have made changes in the justice system as promised. Some critics think the President is 'unpredictable' and suspect there would be no further reshuffle of her cabinet. What is clear, despite the mixed public perception, is that the President has to some extent accomplished a reshuffle which has been in the making for months now.
- Those appointed are Johnson Gwaikolo, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Public Works; Mr. Andrew S. Allakamenin, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Lavela B. Kortimai, Sr., Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of

Commerce; Dr. Marcus Dahn, Deputy Planning Minister for Administration and Mr. Peter Ben, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Post & Telecommunications.

- Others appointed are Mr. Yancon-Dargbe Nimley, Assistant Planning Minister for Economic Corporation, Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs; Mr. Stephen Marvie, Jr., Acting Assistant Minister for Regional Planning, Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs; Mr. Ernest Thomas, Assistant Minister for Energy, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy and Star Radio's news editor Wellington Geevon-Smith, has been named Superintendent of Rivercess County among others.
- President Sirleaf has meanwhile named the "controversial" Mary Broh as Acting Mayor of Monrovia.

African American Billionaire Renews Commitment to Invest in Post-war Liberia

(Liberian Express, The Analyst, Daily Observer)

- The founder and chairman of the RLJ Companies, African American Billionaire Robert L Johnson says his commitment to invest in post-war Liberia is unrelenting. Speaking Tuesday at a press conference at his Kendeja Villas in Monrovia, Mr. Johnson said his commitment to invest in Liberia began two years ago when he attended the Clinton Global Initiatives (CGI).
- He disclosed that at that programme the President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf spoke and appealed to the American private sector for support for her Government's efforts at national reconstruction. Also, the RLJ Companies and OPIC is collaborating on another project in Liberia. Together with CHF International, the RLJ Companies and OPIC established the \$30-million Liberia Enterprises Development Finance Company, which makes loans to Liberian entrepreneurs to support small and medium-size business and create jobs.

Civil Society Groups March against Corruption

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

- The Daily Observer reports that civil society organizations under the banner of Anti-Corruption Action on Tuesday June 9, 2009, carried on a peaceful march through some principal streets of Monrovia, shouting anti-corruption slogans and asking the President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to prosecute all alleged corrupt officials.
- The group later presented a statement to the United States embassy and the European Union calling for the restoration of the e-mail scandal linking the Presidency to corruption. They said the scandal should be conclusively investigated and the outcome made public.
- The Coordinator of the National Human Rights Centre, Alfred Quayjandie read the three-page statement for the petitioners which urged the two diplomatic missions to ensure that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission demonstrates independence and accountability.
- They urged the international community to prevail on Government to fully implement the mandates of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) audits saying all corruption allegations must be investigated and actions taken. Meanwhile, Government says some of the civil society organizations which carried out Tuesday's anti-corruption march are deeply entrenched in corruption.

LACC Validates Internal Policy Document

(The Analyst, The Informer, New Democrat, Heritage)

- The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) will on Thursday and Friday (June 11, 12, 2009) hold a workshop to validate its internal policy documents. The documents will be validated by stakeholders. The validation of the Commission's internal policy documents is in furtherance of its mandate to develop, adopt and implement a number of management instruments and operational procedures to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.
- The documents include the Internal Code of Conduct, By-Laws, Standard Operational Procedures, Statement of Understanding and Confidentiality, and Citation for summoning individuals as well as institutions accused of corrupt acts. Stakeholders that will validate the Commission's internal policy documents comprise the Governance Commission; General Auditing Commission; Legislative Oversight Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives; Civil Society Organizations including the Press Union of Liberia; Representatives of the International Community; Civil Service Agency; Liberia Institute for

Public Administration; LEITI, Ministry of Justice; Liberia National Bar Association and the Ministry of Labour.

Local Media – Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

New Appointments in Government

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

House Committee Pays Fact Finding Visit to LPRC

- The House Committee on Public Utilities says it has established that the “controversial” contract between the Liberia Refining Company (LPRC) and ZAKHEM International Executive Mansion has not started.
- Following a fact finding mission at the LPRC facilities, the Chairman of the committee, Representative Zoe Pennue told reporters that the entity is fully adhering to the decision of the House to halt the US\$24.8 million expansion project.
- The mission was indeed to ascertain whether the LPRC has halted the contract as advised by the Lower House.

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

Anti-Corruption Protesters Want Probe into E-mail Scandal Concluded

- Members of the anti-corruption Civil Society task force have presented a statement to the United States Embassy and the European Union calling for the restoration of the e-mail scandal linking the Presidency to corruption.
- The group wants the scandal conclusively investigated and the outcome made public.
- The Coordinator of the National Human Rights Centre, Alfred Quayjandie read the three-page statement for the petitioners who urged the two diplomatic missions to ensure that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission demonstrates independence and accountability.
- They urged the international community to prevail on the government to fully implement the mandates of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) audits, saying all corruption allegations must be investigated and actions taken.
- Meanwhile, the government says some of the civil society organizations which carried out Tuesday’s anti-corruption march are deeply entrenched in corruption.

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

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

President Sirleaf Mandates EPA to Investigate Firestone Pollution Scandal

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has mandated authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to immediately investigate the alleged pollution of rivers and creeks by Firestone in Margibi County.
- EPA authorities said the President’s mandate gave the agency two weeks to investigate and submit a report on the allegation against the rubber company.

Minister of Public Works speaks against Delay in “Old Bridge” Project

- Public Works Minister Kofi Woods has disclosed that delay in the construction of the Vai Town Bridge (Old Bridge) worries the government and people of Liberia.
- Mr. Woods said construction works on the bridge should have commenced since September 2008 by the China International Construction Company (CHICO), but has been delayed.
- Speaking Tuesday in Monrovia during a tour of projects of the CHICO in and around the capital, Minister Woods said his presence at the Chinese Company sites is to establish and send a clear signal that government is serious about the promise made to the Liberian people.

Naharnet.Com

Thursday, 11 June 2009

Special Tribunal for Lebanon Amends Some Rules of Procedure and Evidence



The international tribunal's judges have unanimously adopted amendments to 14 rules in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon announced Wednesday.

It said in a statement that the court's president proposed these amendments in view of the first procedural steps taken by the tribunal, and following consultations with the office of the prosecutor, the office of the defense and the registrar.

The amendments are designed to further enhance and facilitate proceedings before the court that will try ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's suspected assassins, the statement said.

"The amendments relate to the investigation stage of the proceedings (rules 16, 18, 77 and 96); the effect of non compliance by states with tribunal requests and orders (rules 20, 21); the senior management board and the functions of the registrar (rule 38 and 48); service of judicial documents (rule 75bis); warrants of arrest (rule 79); detention on remand (rule 101); and disclosure of confidential information (rule 117-119)," according to the statement.

"The judges adopted these rules pursuant to rule 5(F) of the rules of procedure and evidence – this procedure allows amendments to be adopted other than at plenary sessions, provided they are unanimously approved by the judges," the statement added.

BBC Online

Thursday, 11 June 2009

Annun gives Kenya court deadline

Ex-UN boss Kofi Annan has told the BBC Kenya has until the end of August to set up a special tribunal to try the ringleaders of post-election clashes. Mr Annan brokered a power-sharing deal last year to end the violence in which some 1,500 people were killed.

A commission of inquiry then said the court should begin hearings in March. Mr Annan says if the new deadline is not met, he will hand over the sealed list he has of the key suspects to the International Criminal Court.

In February, MPs rejected the bill to establish the tribunal despite intense lobbying by President Mwai Kibaki and his former rival, Prime Minister Raila Odinga.



Political and ethnic rivalries erupted into violence

'Victims deserve justice'

A further two-month extension granted by Mr Annan has also passed.

"I'm in discussions with the two leaders... and they told me they're going to make a second attempt to get the tribunal established," Mr Annan told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

"I've also made it clear that if it is not established within a reasonable period, which I would say [is] up to the end of August, I will have no option than to hand the envelope over with the names to the ICC to take it over from there."

Opponents of the bill said they had no faith in Kenya's justice system. Some politicians have been accused of trying to delay the hearings until the 2012 elections.

Mr Annan said he hoped this was not the case as it was important for the accused "to be tried in the community [where] they committed the crime".

Failure to do so, he said, would be a "big blow to the fight against impunity".

"I think Kenya would be much better off with that trial taking place in their midst," he said, urging parliamentarians to pass the legislation.

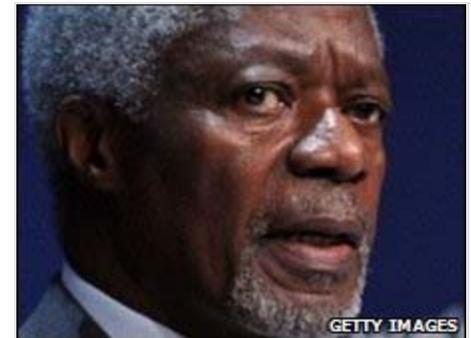
"They are collectively and individually responsible and they should work with the speaker and their fellow parliamentarians to establish the court for the sake of justice - the victims deserve justice."

The violence broke out after Mr Odinga's supporters said he had been cheated of victory in the December 2007 presidential election.

This sparked long-standing ethnic rivalries over access to land and other economic resources and some 300,000 people were forced to flee their homes.

After two months of nationwide violence, Mr Annan brokered a deal for Mr Odinga to join a power-sharing government as prime minister.

But thousands of people still live in camps for those displaced - they say it is still too dangerous for them to return home.



“ I think Kenya would be much better off with that trial taking place in their midst ”

Kofi Annan